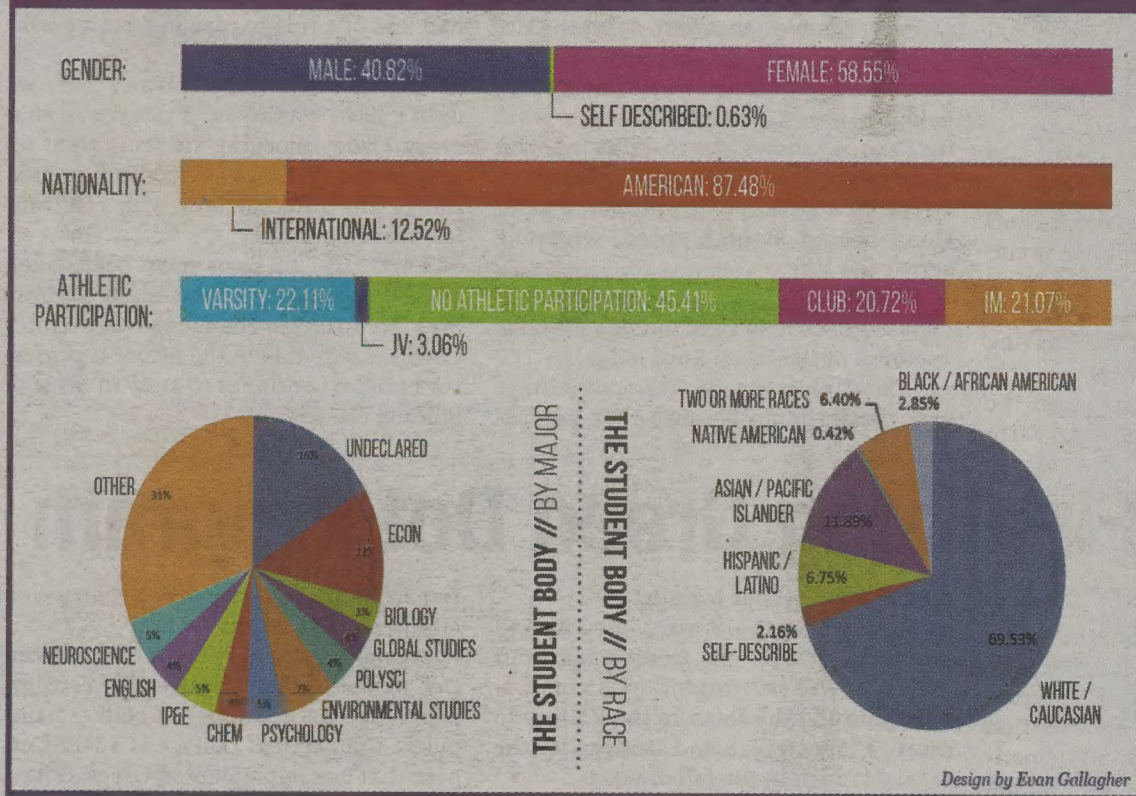


The Middlebury Campus

FEBRUARY 19, 2015 | VOL. 113 NO. 15 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

2015 MIDDLEBURY STUDENT LIFE SURVEY // DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Responses: 1,438 See Features for the full story



College Looks Into Ross Vandalism

By Nora O'Leary

Over the past several weeks, residents of Ross dormitories have been encountering vandalism to their building in multiple locations. In an email sent to all of Ross Commons in January, CRA Mila King-Musza highlighted some of the damages.

The email read, "This past weekend, walls were damaged in Hadley and Kelly, property was stolen in Hadley, and one window pane on the door to the Ross Commons office was shattered."

King-Musza also said that she has seen broken vending machines, damage to community spaces and a general mess created in hallways.

Ross resident Jacob Dana '17 added more to the list. "I've seen broken lights, dents in walls, and posters being torn down in hallways," he said.

When damage is done to a residence hall such as Ross, the first step in fixing the problem is identifying who exactly is responsible, in order to determine who has to pay for the cost of repairs. In addition to paying for the damage, the person responsible is usually also charged an extra fine for vandalizing school property.

However, it is not always possible to identify the responsible party in cases of vandalism, especially when buildings are open to non-residents.

According to King-Musza, many of the damages done in Ross are likely a result of non-residents who are in the building for a number of different reasons.

Because of Ross's size and all of its components, including the dining hall, it is more likely to receive traffic from non-residents than any of the other residence halls. King-Musza believes that this may account for the frequency of vandalism in Ross over other buildings on campus.

"I think Ross is in a very unique position because all our residential spaces are connected. Especially during this cold weather, people take advantage of this: they'll use whatever entrance is closest and walk through other buildings to get to where they're going," said King-Musza.

She continued, "When you don't have any connection to a space, it can be easier to forget that your actions have consequences and there are people on the receiving end of your actions."

Much of the vandalism has occurred on weekend nights. However, what may seem harmless on a Saturday night has real effects on the residents. "I get that kids get drunk and want to screw around but it's not fun to deal with in the morning," Dana said.

King-Musza wrote in her email that these acts of vandalism make those who live in Ross halls feel violated.

"Late on a Saturday night, taking a silly decoration from an open suite may seem like a harmless joke or a funny story to round out your night ... Someone's living space now feels a little less safe; someone now feels less comfortable in

SEE DAMAGE, PAGE 3

Survey Examines Student Life

By Phil Bohlman

During Winter Term, the SGA conducted its biennial student life survey, with 1,438 students completing the survey of eight sections, from Academic Life to Dining. Of that number, only 40 percent of respondents were male students.

In constructing the survey, SGA Chief of Staff Danny Zhang '15 said he and SGA President Taylor Custer '15 solicited questions from Senate and Cabinet members. Additionally, they reached out to "stakeholders" in the College community, including Health and Wellness, CCI, Public Safety, and Student Activities in adjusting the wording of questions.

"Many of the questions were taken from the previous survey two years ago, since one of President Charlie Arnowitz's goals of starting the survey was to have some continuity in the questions so we could track student opinion over time. There were also a lot of new questions on issues more pertinent to the campus now," wrote Zhang in an email. In consulting with SGA members, Zhang shared some results he had found surprising. There were a number of questions on academic life, many of which were contributed by the Student Educational Affairs Committee.

"Even though the first year seminar program is focused on writing skills, the skill that stu-

dents most think should receive more attention in their first year seminar was writing and editing," wrote Zhang.

In the social life category, Zhang pointed to results that seemed to contradict vocalized unhappiness with social life. 58 percent of students are either satisfied or strongly satisfied with their social life at Middlebury and only 3 percent more students said their social life has gotten "much worse/somewhat worse" than "somewhat better/much better."

Zhang felt that there was a lower percentage of students than he expected who knew who was the SGA President (69 percent)

SEE SGA, PAGE 3
SEE SPREAD, PAGE 10

Carnival Comes With Scheduling Headache

By Caroline Jashke

On Friday, Feb. 13, students enjoyed a day off classes to partake in the College's 92nd annual Winter Carnival. Home to the oldest student-run carnival in the nation, the College hosts a variety of activities over the three-day weekend. Some professors, however, have begun to question the benefit of canceling Friday classes.

Even though these Friday classes are made up at the end of the semester, with an additional Monday of Friday schedule classes before finals begin, some professors wonder if it is really worth the inconvenience.

Students have traditionally been given Friday off so that they can cheer on fellow classmates competing in the Alpine and Nordic skiing competitions at the Snow Bowl and Rikert. Despite the intention of the free morning, there is some doubt as

to whether students are using this time to attend the ski races.

Professor of Economics and Faculty Director of the Center for Social Entrepreneurship Jon Isham said, "We cancel classes because of long-standing traditions and I wonder if those traditions are still vibrant. We are canceling one morning's worth of classes for Winter Carnival activities and I wonder how many students are actually doing those activities at that time. Are students really out there on the slopes? And even if they are, is this a good trade-off for our academic community?"

Olivia Allen '15 has observed such a lack of student involvement in Friday's activities.

"I love school free Fridays as much as the next person, but I think the activities provided on Fridays could benefit a wider range of people," said Allen. "A lot of students end up working

with professors or in the library even though they don't have school."

Isham along with Professor John Emerson, the Charles A. Dana Professor of Mathematics, expressed a dislike for the Monday of classes added at the end of term. Both would prefer to keep classes on the Friday of Winter Carnival in exchange for getting rid of classes on that Monday before finals.

On the effect of cancelled classes on his syllabus and course schedule, Emerson said, "In mathematics courses, it creates some problems. We have two Fridays with classes cancelled and we replace it with a lame duck Monday. It makes a difference in math because there is a body of material that is assumed to be covered. Losing a day or two days to the schedule just makes things

SEE PROFESSORS, PAGE 2



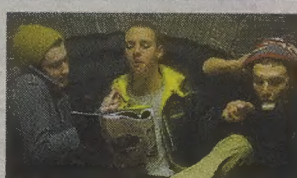
COLLEGE COMMUNICATIONS

The Carnival weekend kicked off with fireworks over Ross on Thursday night. On Friday, students had the day off classes.

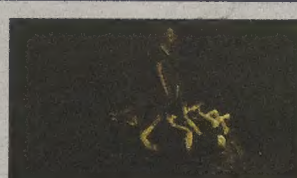
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VT TEDDY BEAR COMPANY SELLS 50 SHADES OF GREY BEAR PAGE 5



TRIPLE CHIN COMEDY GROUP BRINGS THE LAUGHS PAGE 13



ARTS & SCIENCES REVIEWS THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES PAGE 14



By Ellie Reinhardt

The SGA met last Sunday for their first meeting of the spring semester and opened discussion around creating a committee to work with the administration in their plans to increase student tuition, among other initiatives.

Senator Josh Berlowitz '16 introduced the resolution "Opposing the Administration's Plans to Increase Tuition" and presented a plan to give students representation in the conversations to be held around tuition increases.

Berlowitz suggested creating a group similar to a previous SGA Comprehensive Fee committee that would work with the College Board of Trustees through this process.

He also emphasized the importance of administrative transparency and accountability. He noted that the email announcing these possible tuition increases, sent by President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz, was not clear enough in its intentions.

"This is another example of them trying to hide something that directly affects students," Berlowitz said.

Berlowitz also expressed concern for how these changes might affect the College's financial aid policies. Many other Senators agreed with this potential problem and emphasized the importance of preserving the College's need-blind policy.

Other Senators also shared Berlowitz's unease and supported his call for more transparency and administrative accountability. However, some Senators were apprehensive to take the approach that Berlowitz proposed. Senator Aaron deToledo '16 expressed concern for the adversarial tone of the resolution.

Other Senators agreed with this concern. Senator Michael Brady '17.5 argued that in order to make changes, the SGA would need to "play nice" with the administration and the Trustees.

Senator Sophie Vaughan '17 brought up questions surrounding the logistics of creating a new committee. She inquired how students would be chosen and what students would be represented on this committee, both important aspects of the resolution.

In the discussion many Senators also claimed their support of the proposed tuition increases. Berlowitz agreed with this support but also called for a review of current expenses. He pointed to the privileges that the College offers students and suggested that the College works to make those privileges more efficient.

"The mentality that student's can afford to pay more so they should pay more is bogus," he said.

Senator Zak Fisher '16 agreed with Berlowitz's points on privilege. "You might say we live like gods," he said. Fisher also noted that the College is competing in a marketplace in which these privileges are considered crucial to the College's success.

The proposal was not passed as it currently stands but plans were made to open dialogue with the administration as the SGA continues to develop the resolution.

At the meeting, the board also looked at the results of the 2015 SGA Student Life survey. They discussed student participation and the need for more male participation. They also mentioned but ultimately postponed the discussion of a bill proposing to extend Thanksgiving break.

Professors Protest Missing Class

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more compressed and makes it a little bit more difficult for students."

Both Isham and Emerson, however, also mentioned that not having classes isn't a major deal to them as they simply delay content and make adjustments. Their real question is whether it's really worth it.

Sayre Weir '15 believes that there is value to canceling classes for Winter Carnival.

"The races are a fun atmosphere and it's cool to see the campus really come together. Thursday night is the kickoff so having Friday morning classes would disrupt the flow of the Carnival," Weir said.

She continued, "I think that having classes off on Friday encourages students to get involved and go up to the mountain because they have some extra

time. It's nice to have an extra day to recharge, especially since the first week is so chaotic."

While Middlebury has kept many traditions alive, canceling Friday classes being just one of them, there are also many aspects surrounding this event that have changed over the years.

For example, the first Winter Carnivals were held on Chipman Hill and there were snowshoe and obstacle races held on Storrs Avenue. Footage from the 1940s shows "aero-skiing" on Lake Champlain. Students would attach a rope to a small plane and pull a skier along behind at high speed, whipping across the lake.

Emerson remembers when ski jumping used to be held right outside the back windows of the Snow Bowl lodge.

"The University of Vermont always won the ski jump because they import-

ed Norwegian skiers," Emerson said. "A UVM skier set the all time ski jump record when he over jumped the hill. He stayed under control and stopped in time, but that was the last year that they had ski jumping."

Emerson also pointed out that as technology has advanced, students have had less of a role to play in running winter carnival.

"Historically, the reason that we didn't have classes on Friday was that every Friday morning students went up and packed the snow, helped run events; things are different now with electronics," Emerson said.

Currently, no steps have been taken toward reinstating Friday classes. However, we may see changes to the Winter Carnival schedule in the future if professor opinion continues to grow in favor of holding classes.

College Finalizing Green Dot Program

By Day Robins

At this year's Feb Orientation, new students saw the soft-launch of Middlebury's Green Dot strategy, a comprehensive approach to violence prevention that aims to measurably and systematically reduce violence within the Middlebury community by training students to be educated bystanders in situations where power-based personal violence may take place. The program, commonly referred to as "Green Dot," is based on a model created by the non-profit organization "Green Dot, etcetera."

"We are working to train sets of students, faculty and staff this Spring so that when we have a hard launch in the Fall there will be community members who understand the strategy and skills and can share what they know with colleagues and peers," said Middlebury's Director of Health and Wellness Education Barbara McCall in an email, explaining the rationale behind the program's soft launch with the new Febs.

McCall, who is spearheading the program, also led the program's training event at this year's Feb Orientation. One-hundred and twenty five students went to the overview of the program during Feb orientation. Thirty students at-

tended the six-hour training.

Throughout the Spring, McCall and her team of over 30 faculty and staff members will be working with communications and the Dean of the College to create a launch plan and strategy for the formal launch in the fall of 2015.

After careful review of a variety of bystander education programs, McCall and her team decided on the Green Dot model last summer.

"We ended up selecting Green Dot for its proactive, solution-based approach that empowers every member of the community to play a role in violence reduction," McCall said.

"Green Dot seeks to reduce violence in the short term by developing community members' skills, confidence, and connection to the issue while also addressing long-term culture change so that violence is not tolerated on our campus and everyone does their part to prevent it."

An addition to the appeal of short and long-term goals, a second argument in favor of Green Dot is that it's evidence-based.

"Communities that have implemented [Green Dot] show up to a 50 percent reduction in violence," McCall said.

Third, the program is also considered a national best-practice by the Office on Violence against Women, which is the

Department of Justice office sponsoring Middlebury's campus grant.

A final argument in favor of the Green Dot model is that it's already been implemented on a number of college campuses. Connecticut College is a NESCAC peer that has implemented Green Dot.

Starting in the Fall, new students will receive a 90-minute overview that introduces the program and allows for some time for skill-building. This overview will be a mandatory event for all new students during their orientations into the College, while the six-hour training will be voluntary.

"The goal is to get approximately 20 percent of the student body to do the six-hour training so that there are peers on campus who are comfortable with bystander language and action and can support the campus discourse," McCall said.

More training opportunities for overviews and intensives for returning faculty, staff and students will be offered after Green Dot's formal launch in the fall of 2015.

Currently, 27 faculty and staff members have completed the four-day training and are trained Green Dot facilitators. Forty-five faculty members have gone through the shorter program overview.

A meeting will be held at the end of this month to finalize plans for the program's launch in the Fall. To learn more about Green Dot's mission and strategy, visit livethegreendot.com.

"We ended up selecting Green Dot for its proactive, solution-based approach that empowers every member of the community to play a role in violence reduction."

BARBARA MCALL
HEALTH AND WELLNESS DIRECTOR

"I got a call from Public Safety on Saturday night of February break that a water pipe had burst in the back right corner of my room. Friends who had stayed in the dorm over break were calling me saying that water was seeping out of my room."

ERIN PHILEGAR '16

CHATEAU UNDER REPAIR



RACHEL FRANK

The Grand Salon of the Chateau underwent emergency maintenance after pipes burst, causing severe water damage. The pipe burst on Saturday of February break.

SGA Survey Reveals Concerns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Student Co-Chair (19 percent) of Community Council, saying that the SGA had to better market itself.

"11.5 percent of students who answered the survey said they sometime take dishes from the dining hall and forget to put them back. That seems incredibly high to me and would explain why so many dishes go missing so quickly!" said Zhang.

The Student Life Survey began two years ago under Arnowitz. The survey has retained some of the same problems, most prominently the underrepresentation of male students, but the questions have been finessed, according to Zhang. He estimates that 150 more students completed the survey this year than in 2013.

According to Senator Michael Brady '17.5, the SGA under Arnowitz initially planned to conduct the survey every other year due to a fear of "survey fatigue."

As the SGA looks to the future, it will take into account the overwhelming (92 percent) willingness students expressed to fill out the survey annually.

"The yearly survey is definitely something that Taylor wants to move towards. I think that says something about how much students on this campus care about their community and reflects a strong desire to be heard in the college decision-making process," Zhang said.

When asked about tackling the gender imbalance in the survey, Brady considers the selection of prizes as perhaps being slanted towards female students as a possible reason for the disparity between genders in completing the survey.

"I hope that with prizes and other incentives that this valuable data can be collected every year. It's a valuable tool to communicate some student sentiment to the administration about what they want to see changed on campus," said Brady.

Dorm Damage an Ongoing Concern

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their home," she wrote in the email.

King-Musza hopes that the vandalism will come to an end, but understands that the problem is bigger than just Ross.

"This is definitely a difficult situation and the conversation about what to do is on-going and constantly evolving," she said.

At the end of her email she asked residents to please be respectful of their surroundings. The email read, "Without your help, this vandalism may not stop. Let's work together to make our home a better place to live."

Dorm damage has been an ongoing concern among administrators and residential life coordinators. It was what drove the closure of Prescott House, colloquially referred to as ADP, and since has been a part of dialogue on campus.

Community Council has discussed possible solutions for limiting dorm damage and at one time was considering the implementation of camera systems that would hold students more accountable for their actions in dorms and in less public areas.

Former Dean of the College Shirley Collado often discussed her concern for this topic.

"Dorm damage, tree damages and thefts have gone on. There is now a question about whether or not cameras in any major location on campus would be something we should think about," Collado said in a Community Council meeting last year.



JOE FLAHERTY

A vending machine in Ross with its glass shattered over the weekend was another example of the damage afflicted to the Ross complex by students.

Student Struck by Car Raises Safety Concern

By Christian Jambora and Ellie Reinhardt

Last Friday, Feb. 13, a student was struck by a car while crossing College Street at night. The incident, which took place near Adirondack Circle at approximately 12:20 a.m., left the student with multiple injuries.

The student hit was on the phone with his brother when he was struck by a moving motor vehicle which was being operated by other students from the College.

The victim was lifted off the ground and broke through the windshield of the car. Another student in the area heard the accident and rushed to the victim's aid.

"[The student who helped me] is a champ; he heard the incident from a couple hundred yards away and stabilized my head until the EMTs came," the victim said.

Shortly afterward, Middlebury Police and Public Safety arrived to the scene with an ambulance and transported the victim to Porter Hospital. He was released later that morning.

The sergeant from the Middlebury Police Department who is working to investigate the case failed to respond to a request for comment by the *Campus*.

The victim has a concussion and is sustaining a bruised jaw, ribs and legs. "Mostly, it just feels like I have been hit by a car," said the victim.

He added, "I don't remember being hit or where I was on the ground."

This was not the first incident concerning student safety on College Street. Last fall, Public Safety sent an email to all students at the College concerning several instances where drivers of cars and pickup trucks threw objects and shouted at students walking near the road.

Although no students were harmed on these occasions, the incidents contributed to an ongoing concern for the safety of students on College Street.

College Street, which runs from downtown Middlebury through the College and turns into Route 125 as it continues past the College, is one of the busiest roads on campus.

Public Safety works with the College and the town to ensure student safety on and off campus.

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MCAB's WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MIDDLEBURY?

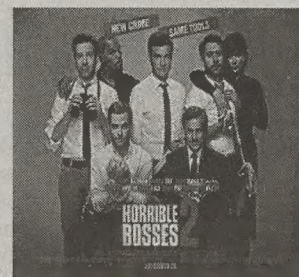
Trivia Night

Come to Crossroads for trivia night.
THURSDAY AT 9 P.M.

Free Friday Film

Jennifer Aniston, Jason Sudeikis and Jason Bateman take the big screen for the second time in *Dana with Horrible Bosses*

2.
FRIDAY AT 6 & 9 P.M.



Small Concerts and the Swing Club

Present Tom Maxwell

Wilson Hall

SATURDAY AT 9 P.M. (DOORS OPEN AT 8:30)

Zumba

Come to Zumba in McCullough Social Space!

SUNDAY AT 4 P.M.

MCAB Small Concerts Presents Alpenglow

Wilson Hall

MONDAY AT 9 P.M.

Atwater Dinner with For the Kids

Enjoy a delicious dinner in Atwater Dining Hall
MONDAY AT 6 P.M.

MCAB Host a Speaker Training

Axinn 109
MONDAY AT 8 P.M.

"Dead Language" Lives On in Vermont: High Schooler Proposes Latin State Motto

By Alessandra Schumacher

Angela Kubicke, a ninth-grade student at St. Johnsbury Academy, recently proposed that Vermont add a Latin motto to its current English motto and she may soon see her wish come true.

Kubicke proposed to include the phrase "Stella quarta decima fulgeat," which means "The 14th star shines bright," since Vermont was the fourteenth state to join the union. This would be used in addition to the current state motto, "Freedom and Unity."

Part of this Latin motto was originally written on one-cent coins minted by colonial Vermont and used as the common currency throughout New England in that era. Kubicke added the verb "fulgeat" to the end, meaning, "may it shine bright."

On behalf of Kubicke's proposal, State Senator Joe Benning (R-Caledonia/Orange) filed a bill in the state legislature. Although it was too late for him to introduce a new bill for that session, he was able to reintroduce the idea to the general public this January through WCAX, a Burlington television station.

However, the debate and comments sparked by the WCAX broadcast, which was posted on the station's website, ranged from the expected to the absurd.

Supporters of the addition of a Latin motto lauded Kubicke for her engagement in the political system, arguing that this effort should be rewarded by taking her proposal seriously and bringing it to the legislature.

Those opposed to Kubicke's idea advised Benning to forget this proposal and focus time and taxpayer dollars on lowering taxes and allotting funds to education and healthcare in the state. Still others proposed the addition of mottos in French or Abenaki, two cultures that share a part of Vermont's history.

Among the string of online comments, someone drew the connection be-

tween a Latin motto and Latin American or Latino people, especially those who have immigrated to the United States. These comments confusing the ancient Roman language of Latin with the language of people from South and Central America prompted an even greater spark of commentary regarding the ignorance and misinformation promoted by the former commenters.

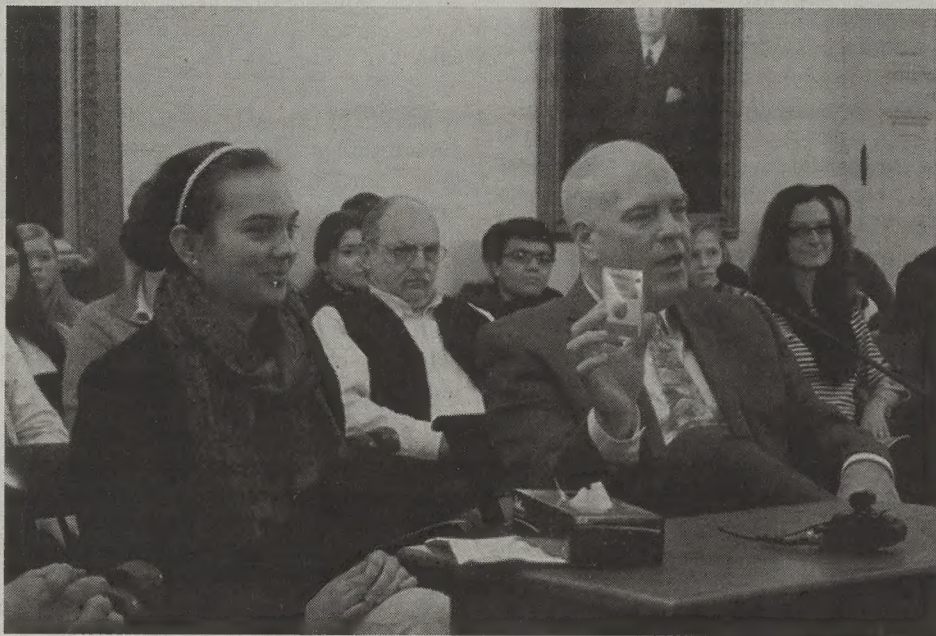
At this point, the focus of the comments turned to a debate about immigration. However, the lack of knowledge on the part of the trolling commenters did not deter Kubicke, Benning or their supporters.

Despite the various reactions, last week, Kubicke, along with Latin teachers and students from across the state, testified in front of the Senate Operations Committee. Next, the bill went to the Senate, which passed it on Friday. The bill will now go on to the House, which will assign it to a committee to make amendments. Lastly, the Senate will vote on the bill, and then Governor Peter Shumlin will sign it into law.

The idea for adding a state motto in Latin has been in the works for at least a year now. When asked about where the idea came from in an interview with the campus, Kubicke responded, "My school started a Certamen team ... and my topic to study was mottos, quotations, and abbreviations."

According to the National Junior Classical League's (NJCL) website, "Certamen is a game of fast recall of facts about classical civilizations and its peoples, languages, and cultures." Competitions for this type of quiz bowl game are held locally across the country, as well as nationally at the NJCL Convention. In the process of memorizing state mottos in Latin, Kubicke discovered that Vermont did not have one.

"A lot of people take the mottos, quotations, and abbreviations quiz down at national forums every year," Kubicke



COURTESY SEVEN DAYS VT

Angela Kubicke and Sen. Joe Benning testify in the Senate Operations Committee.

said, "and Vermont was being left out of the kids who were studying that, and I felt like we should be part of that." Since Vermont does not have a Latin motto, students were not studying it in preparation for this part of the Certamen competition.

Kubicke was motivated to propose the addition of a Latin motto through her participation in NJCL and her passion for Latin language and classical culture.

"My National Junior Classical League chapter was really small, and I wanted us to come in with a bang," said Kubicke. "I really like Latin as a subject, as well as just that club is so much fun."

Although Kubicke has been pursuing this bill on top of school and normal life, she is happy with her decision to do so.

"I really enjoy the subject and I think it's something very important ... It's been

really fun to keep the classical torch burning," Kubicke said. "I was really interested in it [politics] prior to introducing the bill."

Kubicke further commented on how this experience has impacted her thoughts on the future.

"I'm really enjoying the process, so maybe," responded Kubicke, when asked about whether she wanted to pursue a career in politics. Not only has the process been enjoyable, but it has been a learning experience.

When reflecting on what she learned during this process, Kubicke emphasizes the importance of taking action.

"If you think something needs to be changed or you want something to happen you have to speak up, because, let's be honest, if I hadn't spoken up and done this, probably nothing would have happened," Kubicke said. "You've got to be proactive and take initiative."

"If you think something needs to be changed or you want something to happen you have to speak up."

ANGELA KUBICKE
STUDENT PROPOSING STATE MOTTO

"I really enjoyed the subject, and I think it's something very important... It's been really fun to keep the classical torch burning."

ANGELA KUBICKE
STUDENT PROPOSING STATE MOTTO

VT Gas Pipeline Phase II Fails to Be Completed

By Sarah Koenigsberg

Last week, Vermont Gas announced that due to a nearly 80 percent price increase in the past six months, the company has terminated Phase II of their two-part pipeline extension plan, which means the plant will no longer extend from Middlebury to the International Paper plant in Ticonderoga, N.Y.

Skepticism began to rise over the summer when Vermont Gas released that the projected cost required for Phase I would surpass the predicted \$86 million, and likely reach \$154 million. As a result, the Public Service Board asked for a remand from the State Supreme Court in order to investigate the price jump. Although this request materialized in a 30-day examination of cost-related developments, the project was allowed to continue without much scrutiny.

When an updated cost estimate for Phase II was released, which predicted a required \$105 million instead of the former \$74.4 million, plans to complete Phase II, the International Paper plant, which had previously agreed to cover a portion of the cost, no longer found the project commercially worthwhile and withdrew from the deal.

In an interview with the *Addison Independent* last month, Chris Recchia,

the Commissioner of the Department of Public Service (DPS), shared that the more recent budget increase would be examined more carefully than the one in July. Although the DPS initially supported the pipeline project, the department has grown wary of the exploding costs due to its loyalty to ratepayers and landowners along the pipeline route who bear some of the burden of greater construction costs.

Louise Porter, member of the DPS counsel, wrote in a statement that, "the department strongly urges the board to investigate whether the Phase I project remains in the public good in light of the revised cost estimate."

Porter further notes that a "cost increase of this magnitude" is reason to revisit Vermont Gas' Certificate of Public Good, a requirement for utilities infrastructure and services, and urges the board to look into "all relevant changes to the project to date," not just financial ones.

In line with the department's request, the Vermont Supreme Court has granted regulators unlimited time and scope concerning the second investigation, unlike the previously limited examination of cost-related developments. Although Vermont Gas rejects the need for increased breadth, the South Burl-

ington-based company has stated it accepts the push for a second project inspection.

Despite the pipeline's recent setback, the company continues to assert that the pipeline will provide cheaper, more environmentally friendly energy to customers.

Don Rendall, president and CEO of Vermont Gas, insisted in his interview with *VT Digger*, "this is still a good deal for the customers in Addison County and will be a good deal for the state of Vermont."

Governor Peter Shumlin told the *Burlington Free Press* that he is supportive of both the pipeline extension plan and the Public Service Board's new position as overseer.

Governor Shumlin states, "I am gratified Vermont Gas will be putting a renewed focus on offering strong public benefits and a choice for Vermonters of natural gas service through its ongoing expansion to Middlebury and continued exploration of how to drive farther south to Rutland. I know that the Public Service Board and Department will provide vigorous oversight. The state's interest and mine has always been in getting the choice of affordable natural gas to more Vermont residents and businesses, to help expand economic opportunity."

Unfortunately for Vermont Gas, few are as encouraging as the governor. The termination of Phase II has reinvigorated protests against the pipeline.

The opposition coalition, comprised of groups such as Just Power, Rising Tide Vermont and 350Vermont, stated to the *Burlington Free Press* that the Vermont Public Service Board should "revoke the Certificate of Public Good for Phase I in light of the near doubling of Phase I costs, the stark climate impacts of fracked gas, and impacts on landowners in the path of the pipeline."

Similarly, Greg Marchildon, the Vermont State Director of AARP, commented, "the public deserves to know what the additional costs are, how they are being justified, and if the project is still viable given that the projected cost has now gone from \$86 million to \$154 million in just a matter of months."

Paul Burns, Executive Director of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, who also opposes the pipeline, admits that it would be "astounding" if either Vermont Gas or the PSB terminated Phase I. Burns insists however, "I think it's a very real possibility."

Despite the uncertain fate of Phase I, Vermont Gas plans to continue construction after winter under its currently valid Certificate of Public Good.

Vermont Teddy Bear Company Makes a "Fifty Shades of Grey" Teddy Bear

By Isabelle Dietz

This Valentine's Day the Vermont Teddy Bear Company came out with a limited edition "Fifty Shades of Grey" Bear. The teddy comes with grey fur, "smoldering eyes," and dressed in a suit with a "satin tie." It holds a mask in its right hand and mini-handcuffs in its left.

"If you want to dominate this Valentine's Day, skip the roses and send the limited-edition Fifty Shades of Grey Bear," reads the online product description. "Inspired by the best-selling book, the adult gift is specifically designed for fans obsessed with Grey, biting their lips with anticipation over the movie." The bear is "guaranteed for life," stands at 15 inches and costs \$89.99. It is exclusively licensed by the Vermont Teddy Bear Company.

February 14th, Valentine's Day, was also the day that "Fifty Shades of Grey," the movie, came out. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, the movie had the biggest international opening of all times for an R-rated film. The books in the trilogy have sold over 100 million copies worldwide.

This huge popularity has inspired a lot of spin-off products, and the Vermont Teddy Bear Company is not the only one that is cashing in on the *Fifty Shades* frenzy. *Time Magazine* put the teddy bear on a list of "7 Totally Unexpected 'Fifty Shades of Grey' Products" that also included a *Fifty Shades of Chicken* cookbook, laundry detergent and wine. Walmart is currently out of stock with its "Fifty Shades of Grey: Gourmet Gift Basket" that included bubble bath, chocolate, tea, rope, handcuffs and more for \$69.99. Squiggly Boo is selling infant clothes with a design that reads, "9 months ago mommy read 50 shades of grey."

However, despite the popularity of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" books and movie, it has its critics. The "Fifty Shades of Grey" teddy bear has experienced backlash on Twitter.

"50 shades of grey marketing has officially gone too far with Vermont teddy bear's '50 shades of grey bear,'" tweeted Elise Hu (@elisewho). "The Limited Edition 50 Shades of Grey Teddy Bear cannot be limited enough," Splendid Hobo (@Hobo_Splendid) wrote. "I just saw that the 50 Shades Of Grey teddy bear I've seen in ads is 'guaranteed for life.' ... Against what? Ew. Okay, gross, bye." Tweeted Linda Holmes (@npr-



The "Fifty Shades of Grey" teddy bear has a suit, a tie, a mask and miniature handcuffs.

monkeysee).

"We're not looking to make a political statement," Vermont Teddy Bear Company CEO Bill Shouldice said. He is not upset by criticism over Twitter because the company wants feedback from its customers. "It's not for everybody," explained Shouldice. "It's geared towards an audience of people who find it interesting."

BILL SHOULDICE

VERMONT TEDDY BEAR COMPANY CEO

Shouldice explained that the Vermont Teddy Bear Company annually produces an adult gift bear for Valentine's Day. Two years ago there was the bacon bear, which is dressed as bacon and holds a sign that says "I <3 you more than bacon." The bacon bear also received some backlash from people who disapproved of how bacon is made. Last year, the adult gift bear was the "Zombie Love Bear" which has torn clothes, red eyes and is holding a brain and a heart. The company is still selling the zombie bears,

which were very popular.

There are many other bears marketed towards adults listed on the Vermont Teddy Bear Company site. There is a teddy for sale (\$119.99) that "arrives holding sexy lingerie" – a "hot pink lacey chemise." Other romantic teddy bears have more of a cutesy theme, such as the Romeo bear and a bear on a crutch ("I've fallen for you bear"). These teddy bears are marketed towards adults.

"We are lucky in that we sell a premium product made in Vermont, for ages 1 to 100," Shouldice said.

The company has made sure to market the "Fifty Shades of Grey" limited edition bear as one for adults, and clearly states that it is an "adult gift" bear in the product's description.

"Contains small parts," asserts the safety warning for the bear. "Not suitable for children."

The "Fifty Shades of Grey" bear is doing amazingly well. It is the most popular bear on record, and 150 bears have already been sold after Valentine's Day. Although the bear is a limited edition, Shouldice explained that it will probably continue to be sold as long as the movies are coming out.

LOCAL LOWDOWN

19

Studio Opening in Vergennes

If you're an artist (or even a non-artistic-regular-person), you might be interested in heading down to 245 Main St. in Vergennes to see Peter Fried open his new space, and to watch the artistic process as he makes art. "It's going to be really fun, guys," Kate Butcher '15 reports.

FEB. 20, 12-10 P.M.

Concert in Middlebury

Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars are playing a concert in Middlebury in the Town Hall Theater. This will be presented by Middlebury Underground Discussions Talks. Profits benefit the band and WeOwnTV, a nonprofit working in Sierra Leone. The evening will include film clips from a documentary on the band. Tickets will be \$25/\$30 at the door. Call 802-382-9222 for more information.

FEB. 21, 7:30 P.M.

Pancake Breakfast in New Haven

Is there anything better than pancakes? Yup - all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts! Head on over to the New Haven Town Hall to get you plain or blueberry pancakes, french toast, pure Vermont maple syrup, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, coffee, tea and juice. Benefits go to the New Haven Fire Department.

FEB. 22, 7:00-11:00 A.M.

Historical Society Meeting in Vergennes

If you love history, we've got you covered. The Addison Town Historical Society is meeting in Vergennes, at Bixby Library, for a tour and to see the library's current projects. There will be aerial photos of Addison from the 1960s displayed! Please bring cookies, bars or leftover shawarma to share (beverages are provided). For more info, call 802-759-2598 or email annbruce@gmavt.net.

FEB. 22, 2:00 P.M.

Meeting with Rep. Alyson Eastmen in Whiting

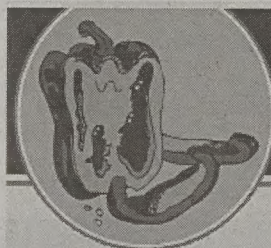
Are you one of State Legislator Alyson Eastman's constituents from Whiting, Shoreham, Orwell and Benson? Do you have important political thoughts? If you answered "yes" to both of those questions, you should head over to Whiting Town Hall to talk about your interests and concerns with your representative. Refreshments will be served.

FEB. 23, 7:00 P.M.

Young Writer's Group in Middlebury

Are you a child (K-6) who likes to tell stories? Or do you know a child who does? If so, join the librarians and other elementary school children to get advice in writing and illustrating a story for the PBS Kids Writing Contest! For more information call 802-388-0479.

FEB. 19, 1:30 - 2:30 P.M.



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OPINIONS

The Middlebury Campus

Weighing New Developments in Housing

Last Tuesday, representatives from Kirchoff Campus Properties, the Dean of Students Office and Facilities Services

EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of the editorial board of *The Middlebury Campus*.

unveiled new plans for a long-awaited housing project. The proposed Adirondack Apartments and new Ridgeline construction will be available in 2016's upperclassmen housing lottery. These buildings, which will include townhouse-style apartments, will open up new beds

for those students opting to live on campus. Overall, we at the *Campus* cautiously applaud this development.

The building project will replace the modular homes, which have served as housing long past their expiration date. The announcement of this new development arrives as the College comes to terms with a minor housing crisis. Increased enrollment has packed College dorms to the gills. And now, the over-enrolled, 629-person sophomore class will enter the upperclassmen housing lottery this year, competing for a small number of housing units relative to their class size.

Without new housing options on campus, these students will be more likely to live off campus. This year, with an unusually large number of students living off campus, the College has already faced conflict with students' neighbors. We saw a rift beginning to open between the College and the town. In an interview, President Liebowitz acknowledged that the College needed a solution to remedy the current housing situation, both on

and off campus.

While we at the *Campus* recognize that there have been problems with off-campus living, we also feel that it has a certain value. Students who live away from the school learn how to navigate landlord relationships, how to be a part of a neighborhood and how to manage utility costs. In other words, they learn how to be independent and start to integrate themselves into life outside the college bubble. While some students struggle with these responsibilities, most thrive.

Furthermore, students who responsibly live off-campus help harmonize the town and the College. Students living alongside townspeople help to break down the psychosocial barriers between the two. We believe that if the College were to drastically lower the number of students living off campus, it would only serve to widen the divide.

The new housing, which was fast tracked during the most recent Board of Trustees meeting after having been postponed years ago due to prior budget constraints, is

intended to entice older students living off campus to come back. This way the College can start to cut back on the distribution of off campus spots while at the same time more easily monitoring a greater number of students.

In doing this, however, the College risks losing a popular on-campus spot. Though the mods' social scene has been less raucous in recent years, the memories of the quirky trailer park-esque neighborhood and their Modapalooza parties are strongly connected to the experiences of many Middlebury students. We at the *Campus* believe that the new on-campus housing should maintain a similar social sentiment. We hope that the Adirondack Apartments can fill the role that the mods played in student life and continue to encourage community, unlike the Ross townhouses, which are similar in nature to the new housing plan, yet do not foster much of a neighborly attitude for their residents.

Ultimately, we at the *Campus* support these actions to remedy the housing situation. In fact, creating new housing around the Ridgeline area to bring seniors back on campus was one of the solutions we recommended to the College back in the fall. That being said, and building on our last editorial about the end of tuition increases calculated by CPI+1, the administration must be transparent about the origins of this new housing's funding. While we commend the College for seeking student input on housing plans thus far, this pattern of transparency must continue, and it must be well-received by Middlebury students. All students, but particularly underclassmen who are likely to live in this new housing, should not pass up this opportunity to contribute to the plans and ensure that these townhouses will be made into homes.

The Middlebury Campus

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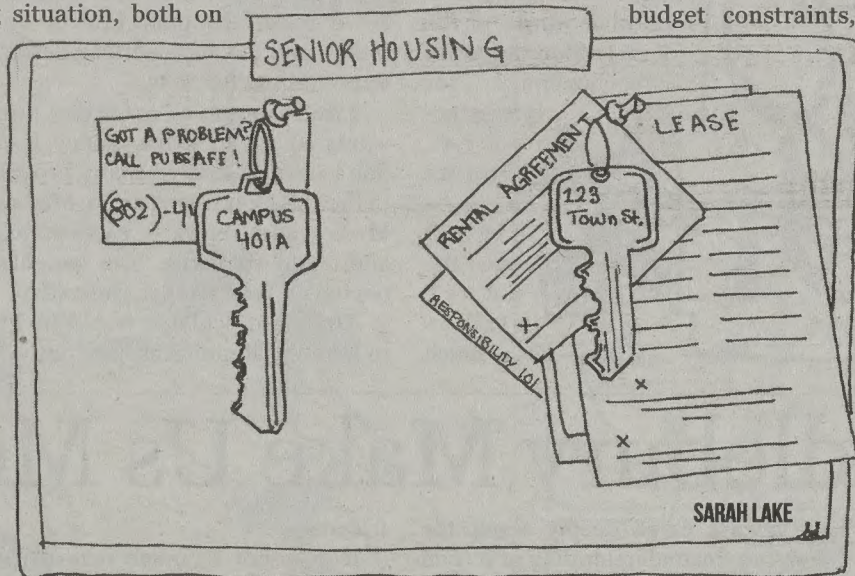
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The Middlebury Campus (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College, is published by The Middlebury Campus Publications. Publication is every Thursday of the academic year, except during official college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are located in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. The Middlebury Campus is produced on Apple Macintosh computers using Adobe InDesign CS5 and is printed by the Press Republican in New York. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue. Mailing address: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Business phone: (802) 443-5737. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Director. First class postage paid at Middlebury, Vt., 05753.



The Mail Center Isn't Working

It is obvious to anyone who has tried to pick up a package this semester that the way the mail center functions is unacceptable.

READER OP-ED

Andrew Smith '17 is from Sammamish, Wash.

For most of the afternoon there is a long line that snakes through the mail center, up the stairs, and back towards the Grille office. My personal experience with the mailroom has been less than satisfactory.

Last Wednesday, I joined the long line to pick up a package. After waiting in the 20 minute line (which is relatively short these days), I found that a single person was retrieving packages. I told him my name and how many packages I had (one) and then he disappeared. About ten minutes later he returned to tell me that he hadn't found my package. Another ten minutes passed and he gave up. I wrote down my name and was told that the mail center would look for my package at a less busy time and let me know when it was found. Meanwhile, during this entirely fruitless 20 minute search, a massive line had built up behind me — a line that would evidently be served by only one person.

I finally got an email on Friday afternoon that my package had been found. I was not in a position to drop everything I was doing and head to the mailroom, and as it is entirely closed on the weekends, I had to wait until Monday to get my package. Then, I was treated to another 45 minute wait before receiving my package. In total, I spent an hour and a half just to get a single item from the mail center.

Now, while I appreciate the reader indulging in my detailed description of

a personal complaint, that it not really the point of this piece, and if I were the only victim of this inefficiency it would be nothing worth discussing. The problem is that the mail center proves a massive time-suck for a large portion of the student body. Many of my friends have shared experiences similar to mine: long lines and missing packages. In fact, on the counter of the mail center one will often see a long list of the names of people whose packages could not be located. On Monday afternoon the list had more than 20 names. Additionally, anyone who has walked through McCullough will have seen the long line and (by definition of a line) the many people waiting in it.

I speak about this issue not out of total ignorance, and not merely to complain. This summer I worked as a package receiver for a Home Depot store, and part of my job was handling the "Buy Online, Ship to Store" packages. "BOSS," as it is called, has a nearly identical mechanism to the mail center: a person gets an email when their package is in, they go to the store and form a queue at the customer service desk, and expect to promptly and accurately receive their package. No Home Depot customer would tolerate a 45 minute wait to pick up something she had ordered. When people have paid for a product, they expect an appropriate level of customer service. And shouldn't we as customers paying about \$60,000 for a bundle of services including mail expect and demand an appropriate level of customer service?

My proposed solution is threefold. My first proposal is to increase mail center staffing. I understand that increased staffing is only marginally valuable, because the number of employees that can be helping students is limited by the small size of the business window into the mail center. But, the mail center should be staffed enough so that people are always being helped at the full capacity that the space allows.

Once this has been maximized, my second proposal is to increase the hours of the mail center.

There is no reason for it to close at 4 p.m., when many people do not even get out of class until 4:15. It's also particularly inconvenient for the mail center to be closed all weekend. We should expect better.

Finally, I propose doing away with names. Names as a way of identifying a person's package are bad because they are difficult to spell, some common names are shared between many people, and alphabetizing is a slow way to order and find things. Instead packages should be organized by box number, and that is how students should identify themselves at the business window. Box numbers are unique, easy to communicate, and easy to sort things by.

The college has abolished CPI+1 and continues to steeply raise tuition. Students ought to demand proportional improvements in services. The inefficiency of the mail center is a huge waste of time that is easily improved. The level of customer service just does not live up to the massive price tag.

"In total, I spent an hour and a half just to get a single item from the mail center."

Re-evaluating Obama's Budget

SWING VOTE

Erin Van Gessel '17.5 is from San Rafael, Calif.

In his last piece, Phil – to use an expression picked up over Feb Orientation – “yucked my yum.” He took us through what he painted to be President Obama’s “harmful budget,” paying special attention to the tax increases, ending of sequestration and community college plan. While I won’t address all of these issues because each subject deserves its own article entirely, I will say this: President Obama’s new budget proposal is a step in the right direction. Though it is not perfect, it cuts America’s deficit and decreases our debt, all while increasing funding to programs that desperately need it.

For starters, let us establish that, thanks to tax increases and, therefore, more revenue, the proposal would flatten deficits out to around two and a half percent of gross domestic product (GDP.). This is significant because under current policies the deficit would actually increase beginning in 2018. Furthermore, the proposal cuts our debt back to 73 percent of G.D.P. rather than the 79 percent it was estimated to reach by 2025.

You may be thinking (especially if you lean right like

Phil), “OK, that’s great that the deficit and national debt would decrease, but do we have to do that through tax increases? Why not just cut spending?” The answer to that question is that we cannot afford to. Let’s zoom in on the issue of infrastructure.

America used to have the best infrastructure in the world. Our bridges, our rails, our electrical grids, et cetera were better than the rest of ‘em. This is no longer the case. Because of insufficient funding, 77,373 of our 604,493 bridges have become functionally obsolete and 69,517 have become structurally deficient. They are, on average, 42 years old. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave U.S. infrastructure the letter grade, “D+.” In a 2013 study, the ASCE estimated that we needed around \$3.6 trillion by 2020 to bring all U.S. facilities back up to par.

So, yes, Obama might be asking for a whopping \$4 trillion in this new budget plan, but just \$478 billion of that is going to public works programs. In other words, of the \$3.6 trillion the ASCE recommended for infrastructure, Obama has tightened the purse strings so much

that not only is he giving them less than a quarter of what they asked for, but he is also spending the amount that one department needs on the entire federal budget. It might be easy to say that Democrats are the party of big spenders; however, the new budget proposal illustrates that while Democrats indeed want to spend more than Republicans, they are spending (get this) conservatively and with purpose.

You should know what this increase in government spending is getting us. According to a report by the Congressional Budget Office in 2014, for every dollar invested in infrastructure, the economy grows by \$1.15 to \$1.25. Additionally, Standard & Poor’s Rating Services released a report in 2014 stating that an immediate \$1.3 billion infrastructure investment could add 29,000 jobs to the construction sector and even more jobs to other infrastructure-related industries. The study also found that this investment could boost economic growth by \$2 billion and reduce American deficit by \$200 million for 2015.

I think we can all agree that no one wants to spend extra money if they don’t have to, but so many programs in the U.S. – infrastructure, Medicaid, Medicare, et cetera – necessitate the additional spending. The benefits of paying up far outweigh the costs.

Therefore, while it would be great to take the Republican way out – cut

spending and leave taxes alone, or even lower them to solve the deficit/debt problems – that plan is infeasible. Our country needs the increased spending and, unfortunately, that may mean raising taxes.

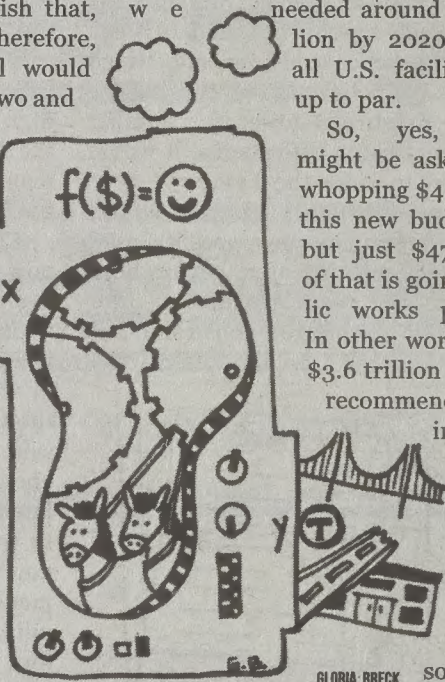
That is why it is all the more important for Republicans to work with the President – so that they have a say in

“No one wants to spend extra money if they don’t have to, but so many programs in the U.S. – infrastructure, Medicaid, Medicare – necessitate the additional spending.”

how the taxes will work, and can quit complaining about them. Obama has some pretty palatable ideas. For example, to fund the \$478 billion public works

program, he has asked Congress to approve a one-time 14 percent tax on profits that American companies have amassed overseas, lower than the standard 35 percent corporate tax rate.

We may all whine and moan about the sad reality that sometimes we have to cough up a little extra dough, but I expect all policy makers in Washington to step up to the plate. Therefore, I hope Phil’s prediction that Republicans will not let this budget go unaltered is incorrect. Furthermore, I hope that the general opinion on Obama’s budget plan will not be tainted with false notions of overspending. For if this article has done nothing else, ideally it has shown you that there are a lot of naysayers or “yuckers” out there, but there is unquestionable “yum” to be gained from President Obama’s new budget proposal.



Does Middlebury Make Us More Moral?

Not so long ago, colleges made a promise that sounds a bit strange today. Administrators and faculty promised not just to teach students knowledge

READER OP-ED

Harry Zieve-Cohen '15 is from Brooklyn, N.Y.

and skills, but to make them better people. Our communications department might like to highlight the good Middlebury students do, but few students enter Middlebury thinking they will leave with better values.

Part of this shift is the result of Middlebury’s secularization. We are no longer a religious institution with a clear moral purpose. Students and teachers surely seek to learn about issues related to social justice, but we rarely think about our time at college as focused on moral betterment.

What if we did? I have been asking myself that question recently, trying to figure out if I am a better person than I was when I arrived. Do I care more about the Good than I did freshman fall? Has my understanding of the Good deepened since I arrived at college? Am I a better person? In order, my answers to these questions are 1) no, 2) maybe and 3) yes, I think so. I

have always cared deeply about the Good, but my understanding of it (and of the best means of pursuing it) has changed since I arrived here.

In 2011, I would have translated questions about the Good into an important but simplistic political question: Do I care about helping the downtrodden?

I am no longer sure that answers to this question necessarily indicate everything about one’s moral character. You see, when I arrived at Middlebury, I was a staunch leftist. Marxist, very nearly. I cared almost exclusively about helping the oppressed. But I was not a particularly pleasant person. My characteristic intolerance and obnoxiousness had, I submit, roots in my purely political view of morality. I do not mean to suggest a link between any political position and ungraciousness, but if one sees morality as mere ideology, that will affect how one treats people. Primarily, this is a matter of open-mindedness. Let your political assumptions become totalizing, and you will unfairly dismiss thoughtful classmates simply because they do not share your worldview. Strictly adhere to an unaccommodating ethical code, and you will find it difficult to make

friends.

It does not so much matter if this code is liberal or conservative. Before the question of what one believes comes the question of how one thinks, and how one thinks is reflected in one’s relationships with others. I am more moral today because I am more open to the idea that I may be wrong. Recognizing my own fallibility makes me more accepting of others’ faults.

I should reassure you that I do believe there are moral positions and immoral positions. The belief that it is right to execute rape victims is an immoral position. If a student at Middlebury justified such a punishment, he would be deservedly ostracized. But I’d venture to guess that most of us are not stoning advocates. Most of the moral disputes at Middlebury are rather more complicated. Thus, they deserve a more generous treatment.

A primary indicator of one’s character is the way one thinks about other people. Are you better at developing and maintaining meaningful relationships than you were when you got here? Are you better at listening to opinions that make you want to punch something? Do you find that new information sometimes causes you to re-

linquish opinions you had previously considered unimpeachable?

If so, then you are probably a more moral person now than you were then. An affirmative answer to those questions means that you take other people, and their ideas, very seriously. It means you treat others as full human beings.

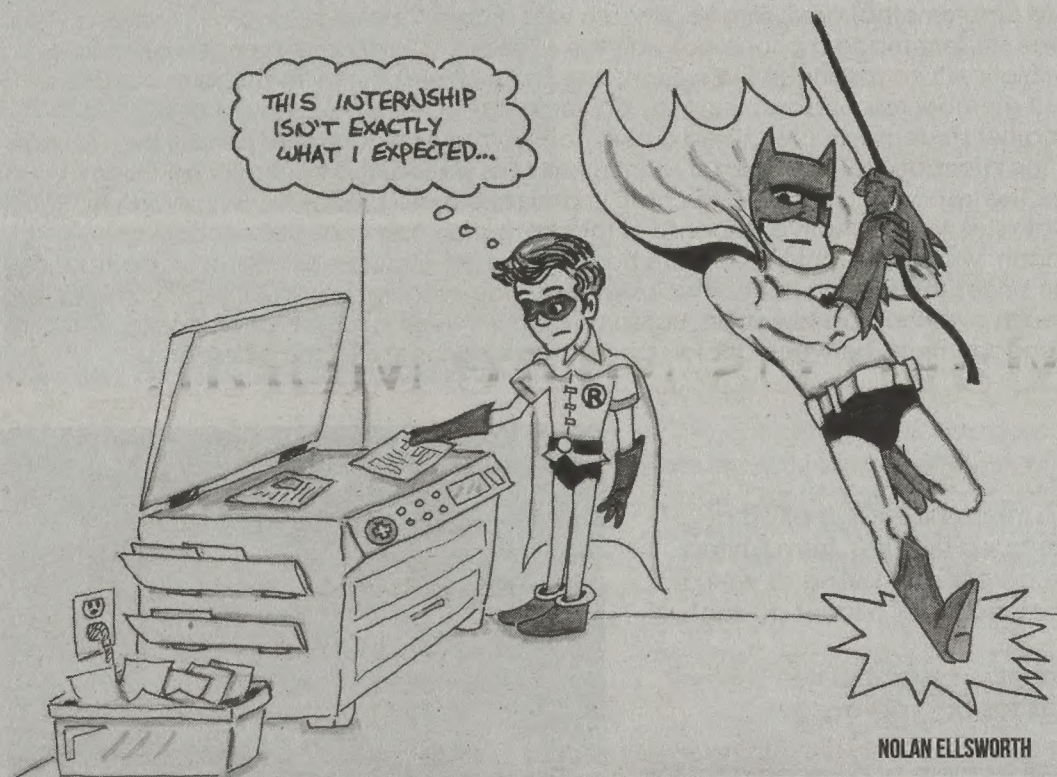
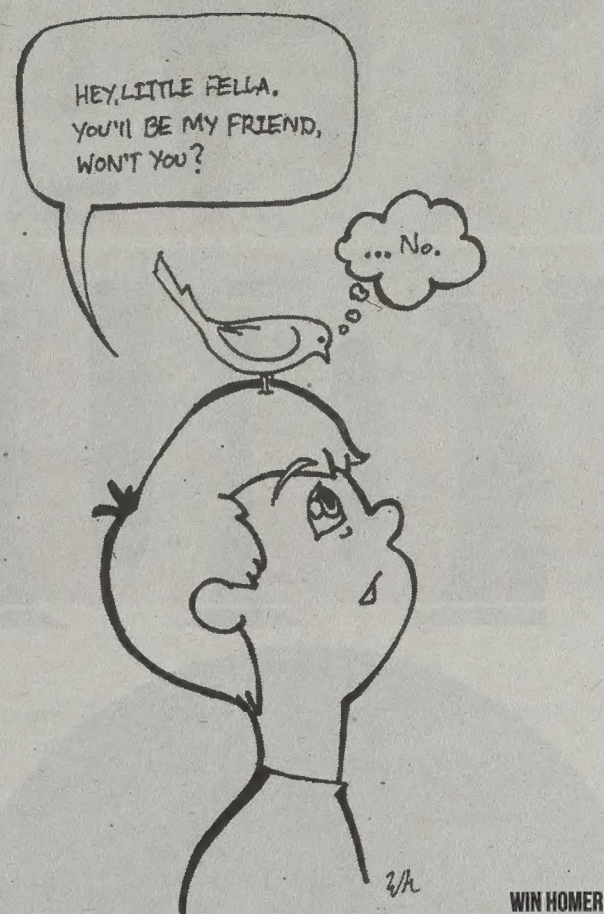
There is an important corollary point to be made here. Recognizing each other as full human beings means weighing and responding to each other’s opinions. It means challenging each other. It means calling each other out. It means forthright displays of emotions and intellect. It means not deferring to another’s argument for the sake of comity. Respect is ensured by intense argument. A more moral campus is a friendlier campus, but also a more demanding campus.

Those old religious founders of liberal arts institutions were onto something. An academic community which is more interested in the moral character, not the ideological bent, of its members turns out to be a much better place to learn. Something, perhaps, to keep in mind as the dark clouds of political correctness continue to condense overhead.

Now Hiring: staff writers for spring 2015

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Campus Cartoons



The SGA Works for You: Cast Your Vote

READER OP-ED

Nick Warren '15 is from Tallahassee, Fla.

and President Bartlet of The West Wing. Whoever said it first, it applies just as well to national politics as to student government at Middlebury.

This Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20-21, students will have the opportunity to vote in three different SGA elections: an all-student referendum on four proposed amendments to the SGA Constitution, an election for the two Feb senators and a special election to fill the vacant Cook senator position for the rest of the year. Voting is online from noon to noon at go/vote.

If past is prologue, many students – most students – won't "show up" this weekend. Recent SGA elections have seen only about a quarter or a third of students turning out. Students rarely sit in on SGA Senate meetings, and although senators, President

Taylor Custer and the Student Co-Chair of Community Ben Bogin are required to hold weekly office hours, students seldom come bringing concerns. It is not a stretch to assume that most students don't care much about student government.

Which brings us to the question of why you should care about student government. Frankly, because SGA matters. In the College Handbook, the SGA is described as "the vehicle through which students can participate in the formulation of institutional policy... and collectively express their views on matters of general interest to the student body." The SGA is the voice of the students. In matters ranging from the cultures and civilizations requirement, credit for summer internships, the tailgating issue and other social life regulation, student senators and other SGA members have pushed the administration on behalf of the student body.

In addition to lobbying Old Chapel, the SGA has nearly unilateral control over the one million dollars in the Student Activities Fund, paid into by every student each year. That money, overseen by the SGA Finance

Committee, funds all student organizations, from MCAB and Mountain Club to DMC and the rugby teams.

Beyond student orgs, the SGA pays for special initiatives that senators think would benefit students – break buses and even MidView trips are funded by the SGA. Last semester, the Senate voted to pay up to \$40,000 to fund a student-designed cabin on Worth Mountain in Hancock for students to use and enjoy.

The point of these laundry lists of budget items and campus issues is to show that SGA is relevant, active and important. The student leaders who participate in Senate and in the SGA's various committees can have quite an influence over the student experience here. Granted, the administration isn't always eager to implement student suggestions immediately (or at all), but that is all the more reason why Middlebury students deserve

dedicated, knowledgeable, inquisitive representatives. Representatives who will challenge the administration, tackle big issues and think how they can improve our school in the long-term.

"The administration isn't always eager to implement student suggestions immediately, but that is all the more reason why Middlebury students deserve dedicated, knowledgeable, inquisitive representatives."

So this weekend, participate. Show up. If you are a Feb or in Cook, make sure your new representatives are worth representing you. Read the candidates' statements, which are posted online at go/elections. Get in touch with them – ask their opinions on the campus issues you care about, and ask them which issues they care about.

And don't let your "showing up" stop once the votes are counted. Even if you have no interest in running for the Student Senate, there are a number of other ways to make your voice heard. Talk to your representatives and friends in SGA if you have a complaint about Middlebury or an idea to improve something here. Write a petition on We the Middkids. Show up – bring your ideas and make Middlebury better.

SGA ASKED YOU RESPONDED

24%

students say Parton has met none of their needs or never used Parton services.

Many students applauded Parton for its recent move to offer free STI/STD testing. Parton Health Center has made progressive pushes toward promoting student wellness on all frontiers: the physical, emotional and interpersonal.

"[Senior Nurse Practitioner] Laurel Kelliher is great," Isabella Stallworthy '15 said. "She has a way of being really comforting and professional at the same time. I think she manages it really well."

Other students have also cited great experiences at Parton — incidences in which nurse Anne Cluss told stories to ease the patient during a blood drawing and moments in which nurses Suzanne Snider and Jane Mandigo were calming and caring during situations involving Plan-B, an emergency contraceptive.

While some Parton staff members truly ease their patients, some students have been subjects to problems that arise from healthcare with stigma. After receiving a prescription from Parton, one student made a phone call with the question, "Can I have a drink while taking these antibiotics?" According to the student, the question was met with an abrasive attitude, with a staff member responding, "No. Why do you need to have one drink at all?"

Another student was prescribed a birth control that eliminated her period, but was not supplied this information. Thus, when student missed her period, she frantically called the Parton office. The response: 'you need to come in and take a pregnancy test immediately.' The student says she was met with a response of misinformation and unnecessary panic.

Parton, which is meant to meet the health needs of virtually all students on campus, has made strides to make services all-inclusive and wide-ranging, particularly on women's and LGBTQ health over the past few years. But sometimes it's easy to forget that the short-lived, in-and-out engagements between doctors and patients can make all the difference.

Located in the center of campus, the Center for Careers and Internships (CCI) offers a multitude of career advising services. From resume building to career guest lectures, from limited internship funding to MOJO, the CCI has worked to give one-on-one career counseling as well as digitalizing it. But accessibility to those resources seems to be still out of reach for a lot of students, according to recent SGA survey results.

"I've been trying to push myself to go to the CCI for several months," Masha Lafen '15.5 said. "What I would love to do is make an appointment to see an advisor, but I always get wrapped up in classes and homework."

Some students suggest that the CCI should work to market itself as more of an open door for walk-ins rather than a closed or digital one.

"You should be able to call and make an appointment," Anna Mullen '15 said. "You shouldn't have to go online [or go through MOJO]. It's just an unnecessary step. It's not hard to make an appointment, but it could be easier."

Currently, CCI has drop-in hours for two hours from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. on weekdays, where students can meet with CCI-trained senior Peer Career Advisors. These drop in hours need no appointment and are a great place to start job or internship hunting or have a resume or cover letter reviewed, among other things.

38%

of students are satisfied with the services the CCI provides.

<5%

of students use the CCI more than every couple of months.

55%

of students support divestment from fossil fuels

50%

of students are not for divestment or have no opinion.

Although fossil fuel divestment of Middlebury's endowment has been a hot topic in the last couple years, 30 percent of survey respondents said they had no opinion, while over 15% said they did not support fossil fuel divestment at all. Only 20 percent of survey respondents agreed with the statement, "Yes, I support divestment from only fossil fuels."

"Divestment doesn't have a shot in achieving what a carbon tax or cap and trade can achieve in reducing emissions," said Assistant Professor of Economics Nick Muller. "We should be skeptical [of fossil fuel divestment] because it's a poorly targeted attempt at reducing emissions." He explained that many industries, like cement manufacturing, do not directly extract fossil fuels. Yet they indirectly support the fossil fuel industry because their manufacturing process is so energy-intensive. Because divestment would permit continued investment in fossil fuel-related industries, Muller said it would not be effective in lowering carbon emissions.

Bianca Gonzalez '17 expressed concern about divestment's financial risk to Middlebury's endowment. "We shouldn't be one of those schools to take that chance," she said, citing the fact that Middlebury already has fewer endowment dollars per student than similar schools, like Williams and Amherst. "Overall, education [about sustainability] will make more of an impact than divestment does," she said.

Muller said, "It's fine for individuals and institutions to express their views through divestment. Conflating the two, saying that divestment will supplant what policy will achieve is problematic. [Divestment] is a feel-good measure but what's it likely to

At the open forum held by College President Ronald D. Liebowitz last November, students criticized the campus social scene for failing to be inclusive, varied, and comparable to similar schools. Students vocalized their frustration with the administration's crackdown on alcohol at tailgates and large, campus-wide parties. Surprisingly, only 26 percent of survey respondents said they were dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with Middlebury's social life.

"What's probably happening is it's probably a minority that's not seeing the type of social life they want to see on-campus... folks who want big stereotypical college parties, sort of like the ADP type," SGA President Taylor Custer '15 said.

The shut-down of ADP and the Bunker in the spring of 2013 due to excessive property damage were two major changes that the current junior and senior class experienced. Roughly a third of survey respondents believed that social life had become worse or significantly worse in their time at Middlebury.

"There's been an increase of organizing socially based on your sports teams," Kelsey Martel '15 said. "In the past, everyone could go to ADP and just hang out in this large social space. Social houses now are less active."

Although the Bunker has been open since last semester for social events, the return of ADP is unlikely. Custer said, "The reality of the drinking age being 21 might create a conflict between the administration and students who want that [type of] social life. There's going to be an impasse here."

58%

of students say they are satisfied with their social life on campus.

61%

of students prefer to attend non-college sponsored events on a Saturday night.

37%

are satisfied/ strongly satisfied with SGA.

81%

don't know who the student cochair of community council is.

34%

think the SGA is an effective vehicle for change on campus.

60 percent of students don't know who their Commons' Senator is. 31 percent of students don't even know who the SGA President is. Over half the student body said they had no opinion about whether the SGA adequately represented them. These statistics seem to spell political apathy; most students don't seem to know or concern themselves with the students who are supposed to be representing them and their interests.

Julia Rossen '16 says she doesn't really know what the SGA is working on but "I bet they are doing a lot behind the scenes." She adds that she thinks students do actually care about the SGA's efforts but "not actively"; "Students don't care enough to go ask what they [the SGA] are doing. I do think there are things that I would like to change (...) but I don't really know how to reach them."

SGA President Taylor Custer '15 believes that this survey confirms that students have strong opinions about issues on campus but just don't want to spend the time to pursue their interests. He suggests that students do not know many of the student representatives because the numerous uncontested elections that put them in office lowered voter turnout hugely.

He confirms, however, that it is the SGA's job to market itself in a way that inform students of what the SGA is, what it are doing and how the members can be reached. In the words of SGA Chief of Staff Danny Zhang '15, "It is the SGA's responsibility to tell its own story." The SGA is currently working on increasing publicity for their efforts by updating their website, holding office hours, sending all-school emails maintaining bulletin boards and possibly distributing brochures.

Should race be a factor in admission decisions?

63%

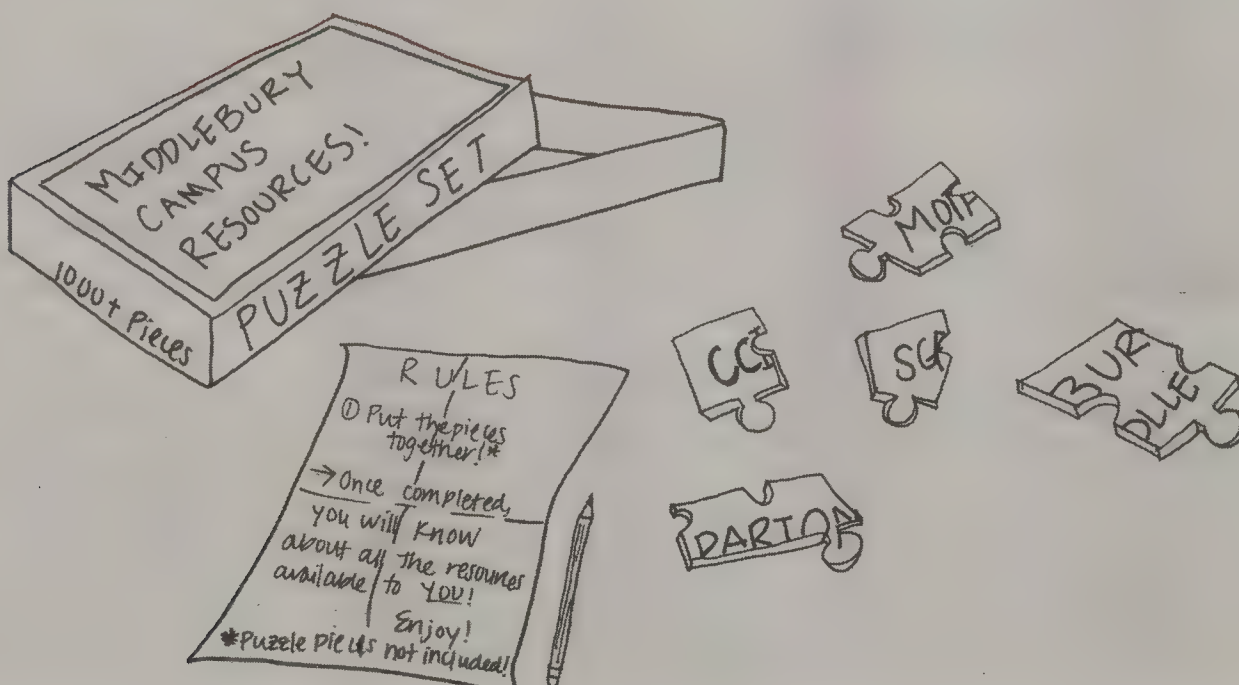
said yes.

The current admissions approach is a "holistic process," describes Coordinator of Multicultural Recruitment Nicole Curvin, in which race is one factor considered equally among many. In this process, race is not a separate conversation but instead weighed as one of a myriad of aspects of an applicant's identity. Still, bringing more diversity to the College is no small focus in admissions; the office makes efforts such as working with community-based organizations, reaching out to new schools in underrepresented areas, bolstering its Discover Middlebury fly-in program and adding new Posse groups as a way to bolster the range of backgrounds at the College.

It is the importance of this variety of identities that make some students agree that race should be a factor in admissions and others decide to the contrary. Maya Doig-Acuna '16 believes that race should be a factor in admissions because "we all carry our identities with us" and "for a person of color, race acts as a challenge to deal with," therefore "it makes senses to consider it the same way [admissions] considers other trying experiences in high school."

In contrast, other students, some who preferred to remain anonymous, asserted that the culture and curriculum at the College can make students of color feel like teaching tools in a Caucasian-dominated environment and thus, perhaps race as an admissions factor is not benefitting students of color as much as it is thought to be. Missan DeSouza '14, who wrote an article entitled "F*** School" on the blog beyond the green, says in her piece, "Middlebury has told me the evils of being a minority, showed me the downfall of affirmative action, told me that being a minority makes me already a second-class citizen and that this institution is a way to gussy up my theoretical 'bootstraps.'"

It seems consideration of question of 'should race be a factor in admissions?' needs to include consciousness of 'what kind of institution are we admitting students to?'



Survey distributed by the SGA
Based on 1,438 student responses
Text by Jessica Cheung,
Emilie Munson & Hye-Jin Kim
Design by Cassie Kent
Cartoon by Eunice Kim

MAlt on Sex Education in Puerto Rico

By Erin Winseman

On Saturday, Jan. 31, a group of 12 Middlebury students left the frigid winter temperatures of Vermont and travelled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to participate in a women's empowerment MAlt trip over February break. Over the course of the following week, they engaged with an organization known as Iniciativa Comunitaria, or Community Initiative (IC), and worked with women and transgender sex workers to participate in hands-on, alternative approaches seeking to aid Puerto Rico's prominent drug abuse problem.

Trip leaders Camila Fernandez '15 and Ryan Coates '15 originally chose the location due to their interest in Puerto Rico's rich cultural and political history, and then expanded the trip to focus on their other shared passion of female empowerment and women's rights.

"Puerto Rico is interesting because it's part of the United States and Latin America at the same time, and we wanted to see how that played out," Coates said. "We made an effort to integrate into the Puerto Rican culture to get a better cultural context of the community we were working with."

During the first few days of their trip, they attended training sessions and cultural competency workshops facilitated by IC, where they were able to speak to many of the volunteers and learn more about what the organization is about.

"Speaking with volunteers was fascinating because these are people from San Juan who wanted to give back to their community," group member Jiya Pandya '17 said. "They're all really passionate about what they're doing."

With a slogan that reads "Somos un gran abrazo," or, "we are a big hug," IC was founded by a doctor who attended medical school in Puerto Rico and was disappointed by the current solutions to help the social injustices of the community. Through IC, alternative solutions are brought to the table: clean needle exchanges to prevent the spread of infection among drug users, outreach programs to women and transgender sex workers,

food, water, and medical supplies offered to homeless populations, and child developmental programs. Some of the most important tenants of their programs are empathy, compassion, and "amor" — love — and they strive to create a happy and healthy community.

After the MAlt group finished their training, they were able to participate directly in the services IC provides. From 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Friday night, their last night in Puerto Rico, the group split, with the first half working with women and transgender sex workers and the second half engaging in the clean needle exchange program.

Working with the program's head coordinator Ivana Fred, some of the MAlt trip participants followed Fred's vehicle as she went to certain areas and neighborhoods of Puerto Rico where many sex workers congregated, giving out baggies of condoms and lubricant and speaking to women and transgender sex workers about the organization. They were surprised to find out that there had been a police raid in that same area the night before.

"Not many transgender [sex workers] were coming to the car ... because they [the police] had arrested them the night before. There is a lot of police brutality against them: they cut their hair and hold them down.."

CAMILA FERNANDEZ '15

is a lot of police brutality against them; they cut their hair and hold them down," Fernandez said. "It's pretty surprising to see and hear about the direct targeting of transgender women where in a neighborhood two to three blocks away, there's a very big drug area."

"[The police] would come dressed as normal people and offer a price [for sex], and a lot of the women caught were put in jail and charged fines of \$250 minimum. They can't afford to pay that," said Ellen Sartorelli '17, another participant of the trip.

Other students travelled with IC's program Operación Compasión, where they drove with fellow volunteers in a truck with food and medical supplies to



ALEX SERRANO

The participants of the trip pose with the head coordinators of Iniciativa Comunitaria.

prominent San Juan homeless communities, distributing food, water, and clean needles to prevent illness, particularly HIV, which in Puerto Rico is spread more commonly through needles than sexual contact.

"Most of what people do who volunteer is talk to the people there, see what they need. It's really about building relationships and making them feel wanted, included, cared for," Pandya said.

Pandya explained how she met David, a man suffering from a drug addiction and who had been on the streets for about two months. Any money he earned, however, was spent either to call his family or buy more drugs.

"He told us he knew he could save up money and travel to the drug recovery center that the organization had," Pandya said, "and he told us that he wanted to, but he couldn't: he didn't have the will to do it."

Another man Pandya encountered had a mosquito bite that he had scratched open, and because he didn't have access to clean water, it had not healed properly. She had to hold a flashlight as three medical student volunteers peeled off his sock and washed his wound.

"We don't think twice about those things, but for someone who doesn't have access [to clean water], that's a much bigger deal," Pandya said.

When they were not working with IC, the MAlt trip was exploring Puerto Rico and the cultural community.

"We were experiencing Puerto Rico as a real Puerto Rican would," Sartorelli said. "We weren't limited to the organization. We learned about living in Puerto Rico."

One of the many interesting points the group learned as they experienced life in Puerto Rico was that grocery prices were much higher because Puerto Rico only produces 13 to 15 percent of its own food while the rest is imported because of the limitations of United States trade agreements. Some locals also referred to Puerto Rico as a colony, others as a country: it was never called a territory even though the locals know it is considered part of the United States.

"It was interesting because as you're driving through there's Spanish on the radio, on the billboards, and then a Walmart just jumps out at you," Sartorelli said.

"It's the United States in some ways and then in other ways it's not," Coates said.

A cultural, political, and social immersion into Puerto Rico itself, the San Juan MAlt trip provided for many of its members another look at women's empowerment as well as a chance for an interactive and collaborative service trip experience.

"I've always considered myself passionate about female empowerment," Sartorelli said, "But now, after doing this, I think I want to get more involved with organizations like WomenSafe or MiddSafe in the future. It was a great opportunity to do work that people always say they're passionate about."

In-Queer-Y: So You're Opposed to Homosexuality?

IN-QUEER-Y

By Lee Michael Garcia Jimenez

When people say they are opposed to homosexuality, what are they talking about? What is different about the homosexual lifestyle? Really, the only distinguishing factor of the homosexual lifestyle is the sex, and when people say they're opposed to homosexuality or even just uncomfortable, really they mean they are opposed to gay sex.

Now I'm not saying we should all just obsess over gay sex and how amazing it is (although it most definitely can be). But it is worth unpacking what it means to say you have a problem with homosexuality.

Typically, when people think about homosexuality, they think about male homosexuality. And when people think about male homosexuality, they think about anal sex and then everyone is uncomfortable and being gay is wrong and

unnatural. However, aside from the erasure of lesbian sex lives, it still isn't appropriate to say that gay sex is anal sex.

Firstly, there are lots of straight men and women who engage in either role of anal sex with their partners. Trust me. Either role. Lots. Considering that, it's odd that most anti-sodomy laws legislation against anal sex are aimed at gay men, and often in less tolerant countries it's only gay men who are prosecuted for breaking those laws.

Then, there's the argument that okay, there are some heterosexual deviants, but they have the option of engaging in normal sex. Gay men can only have anal sex, and that's why it's unnatural. Anal sex doesn't lead to procreation so we aren't meant to have it. The vagina is meant to take the penis.

And this is where a lot of people really are just missing the point of sex. Firstly, the purpose of vaginas is not to 'take' a penis. Vaginas are capable of a lot, and they have a different use for everyone who has them. This doesn't go to say that there aren't people for whom sex is only to create children and chose not to have it otherwise. There are and that's awesome.

But the reality of the vast majority of people is that we have children for a multitude of reasons, such as pleasure

and forming intimate bonds with our partners.

There are many different kinds of people who can't have children from having sex: older people, people who've had ovarian cancer, people who are naturally sterile, people who aren't ready for kids, people don't ever want kids. The list goes on and if you're going to say the natural thing to do is make babies, then you're saying the vast majority of people aren't doing it right.

Sex isn't just about having children, and in having sex people are going

to do a wide variety of things outside of vaginal penetrative sex, like blowjobs. Oral sex is everywhere in our society. It's referenced in songs and television. People, especially college students, joke about it in their casual conversations. And while it's not something everyone is into, it's definitely culturally accepted. So if blowjobs are fine, why is it that two men having anal sex so weird. Thus, the problem isn't gay sex, because straight sex has all the same things.

The only distinguishing factor of the homosexual lifestyle is the sex, and when people say they are opposed to homosexuality, really they mean they are opposed to gay sex.

The truth is, sex is weird. Like, all sex. Objectively, who thought it was a good idea to say, let's get naked, rub up on each other, rub tongues, and put our body fluids into each other? It's funny-looking and gross. But as we get older, we try things and many of us think it's great, so we do it. The problem is when you hear about something different. Often, we equate things

being different to things being unnatural, and we equate things being different to things being wrong. And when we say being queer is having gay sex and that makes you wrong, it's stressing and destructive

to a person. But gay sex is just sex with gay people and being gay isn't just having gay anal sex. In fact, many gay men choose to not engage in anal sex at all.

Gay people can hold hands, maybe drink some soda, sing along to the radio, have a bowel movement. There's no gay lifestyle. Gay people are just people who are gay and when a person says they are against homosexuality, you aren't really saying anything except that you don't really know what homosexuality is.

Triple the Chins is Tripling the Laughter

By Jenna Lifhits

Josh Espy '17, Kirk Horton '17, and August Rosenthal '17 are three dudes with chins and three impeccable senses of humor. Since September 2014, they've been known as Triple Chin Comedy, Middlebury's very own Lonely Island-esque comedy group. Every month, the trio writes and films videos that are posted on YouTube for your viewing pleasure (channel name: Triple Chin Comedy). Topics range from a mock-Priceline advertisement to a super awkward public service announcement. The group also recently released a fifteen-minute film titled "hūmans" (pronounced: who-mahns).

During our interview, the chins seamlessly faded in and out of a multitude of characters, from the boisterous Pradeep Abu to the young, strapping German duo Hans Jan and Stefan. Between the jokes, though, the conversation got real. As naturally funny as these guys are, and as effortless as a sketch may appear to the viewer, comedy is an art.

Rosenthal pointed out that there is a profound difference between comedy in real life and comedy in video format.

"Your jokes have to be so much better in a video than they have to be in real life, because most things aren't that funny in real life ... so when anything is a little funny, someone will laugh. But ... when you have a video, someone is taking the time out of their day to look at something. The quality has to be much higher."

In order to craft a quality joke, the jokesmith has to keep some crucial points in mind. As obvious as it may seem, one

of these is whether the joke will be funny to the viewer. Horton explained, "When we're coming up with jokes, keeping in the back of our minds whether it's just funny to us, or whether other people will think it's funny as well ... There's a lot of things that we crack up about that will not make anyone else laugh."

Espy added that a sketch has to have a character that serves as a 'home-base.' "Not everyone can be nuts. Something has to be grounded in reality So Greg [Rosenthal's character in "hūmans"], as a character was ... pretty reasonable, and we [Horton and Espy] were just nuts. That's why I think that relationship was dynamic."

A quality sketch can also serve as a space to talk about subjects that are otherwise taboo. But a joke that is not politically correct—either because it touches upon a sensitive subject or because it is

vulgar in a way that is not socially acceptable—must also be smart. Rosenthal explained, "Being vulgar is such an easy punch line, and it's definitely very fun, but it's so much more rewarding to

make a joke that's smart and vulgar. If you can hit both, that's amazing."

Espy added, "If [your joke is] vulgar for the sake of being vulgar, or offensive just because you'll get a shock ... that's so cheap. That's not worth it."

The boundary between a smart joke and a joke that is offensive is thin, but Espy explained that the only way to find the boundary is to go there. "I think you have to talk about everything, and then you can let rationality and common sense



EMILIE MUNSON

For sophomores August Rosenthal, Josh Espy and Kirk Horton, comedy never rests.

prevail. But unless you are willing to, in a safe space, go there, then you can't find the boundary."

Being funny — from writing the script to shooting the video — is a learning process. Comedy isn't easy; but that doesn't mean it isn't outrageous fun. When the trio was shooting "hūmans," they took the phrase in vino veritas to heart.

"We were drinking a lot during J-term ... Writing a sketch plays very differently when you're sober versus when you're drunk," Rosenthal said. "If you don't laugh out loud reading your own script when you're sober, then you've got to stop and start over."

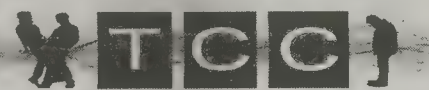
What can we expect from Triple Chin Comedy in the future? According to Horton: "Millions of YouTube hits."

The group is starting an improv radio show called Triple Chin Radio. The show will air on Sundays at 11 a.m. and will feature a variety of Triple Chin personas interacting with each other; one

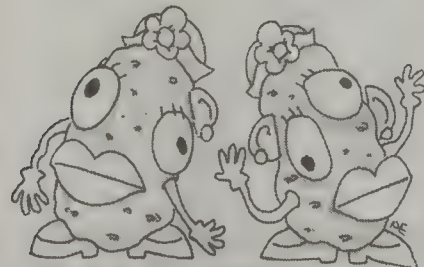
segment to look forward to is a current events report. Of course, the group will also continue posting videos monthly.

But that's not all. We can also expect an epic party — and everyone is invited. August gave Triple Chin's loyal viewers his promise: "When the PSA [video] hits a thousand views, we are going to throw a one-thousand view party... So it's BYOB — and BY our B, because we're not providing anything." Horton added the disclaimer that "it might just end up being us at the Grille."

Finally, the trio says they're open to adding more chins: "If you like jokes, and you think you're good at them - you don't have to be great at them - get in touch with us." You can never have too many chins.



NARPs: Taking Winter Carnival to a New Surface



N.A.R.P.s
NON-ATHLETIC REGULAR PEOPLE

By Izzy Fleming and Maddie Webb

For most Middlebury students, Winter Carnival means having an extra day to procrastinate on homework and to party in fun locations at new times like on a mountaintop at 11 a.m. However, for Maddie and Izzy, it means one thing and one thing only — the College's annual Ice Show spectacular! It has always been a dream of ours to shake what our mamas gave us on as many different surfaces as possible. Now, we can proudly check ice off of our list.

We knew this would be one of our more difficult challenges, due to our personal histories with the art of ice skating. Maddie had only stepped on the ice once before her Middlebury skating debut. She was six and had to use an old person walker to prevent herself from falling. Just kidding, she was 12. Just kidding AGAIN it was actually last year. Izzy on the other hand always got distracted by the hot chocolate booth next to her local rink.

In preparation for our figure skating debut, we did what any sensible NARPs would do: watched Blades of Glory and

Ice Princess, fell asleep listening to the Miracle speech for at least a full week leading up to the big event, and called our moms to yell at them for giving away our leotards.

Kendall Wyckoff '14.5, Middlebury College's own celebrity figure skater, had kindly agreed to show us the ropes of the sport. Our dreams of one day joining the ranks of other Olympic skaters on the Cheerios cereal box quickly faded when we realized we could only move at snail pace. We discovered the Harry Potter soundtrack provided a more motivational element to the lesson than T-Pain telling us to move our bodies like a cyclone (please note: difficult to do on ice). Naturally, we were soon pursuing a production of Harry Potter the Musical: On Ice with Maddie playing the role of Voldemort and Izzy playing Harry.

What's a wizard-themed ice extravaganza without an audience? For those of you who do not know, the hockey rink doubles as a YMCA-esque walking track for the local elderly community. Fully equipped with visors, Skechers shape-ups and yoga pants, our audience was ready for a show. Unfortunately, when Maddie was supposed to yell "Avada Kedavra!" at the climax of Hedwig's Theme, she ate s**t. Izzy found Maddie in the penalty box five minutes later, punishing herself for ruining the routine.

We really thought that after an hour of skating, we would be able to do at least a triple axel, but Kendall told us the simplest trick a beginner skater can do is skate on one leg. It became really clear that that trick would not be an option for us since neither of us has enough balance to downward dog without tipping

over. We never learned how to stop so most of the time we ran into the walls, but we considered that to be character building.

After an hour in the rink, Izzy wondered aloud "When is the gazebo coming to clean the ice?" For Izzy's sake, we will blame her pitiful mix-up of the words gazebo and Zamboni on "sleep deprivation."

While Izzy waited for the "gazebo," Maddie punished herself for running into a wall rather aggressively with more time in the penalty box. When Izzy questioned why she was spending so much time in the penalty box, Maddie responded, "Character is doing the right

thing when nobody is watching." Izzy is still unsure how this applies considering Maddie fouled nobody in the course of our ice skating adventure.

We know that the start of second semester is always brutal — with the shivers that accompany your alcohol withdrawals and the fact that your nostril hairs freeze when you step outside. Remember to take time for yourself and unwind by indulging in your hobby or trying something new. If you don't, what would be a minor setback becomes a full-blown meltdown when the person in front of you takes the last piece of hearth bread at Atwater.



IZZY FLEMING

Maddie Webb takes a tumble during the NARPs very own Ice Show Spectacular.

ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

Vagina Monologues Get a Standing O

By Elizabeth Zhou

Amidst the flashy festivities of Winter Carnival, this past weekend marked the second annual performance of *The Vagina Monologues* in the Hepburn Zoo. An episodic play written in 1996 by Middlebury alum Eve Ensler '75, the production delves unabashedly into various elements of the female experience, including sex, love, menstruation, masturbation and birth. Proceeds from each sold-out performance Feb. 12 to 14 went toward WomenSafe, a 24-hour hotline dedicated to ending domestic and sexual violence.

Sponsored by the on-campus women's resources center, Chellis House, and directed by Jiya Pandya '17 and Sandra Markowitz '15.5, *The Vagina Monologues* consisted of "happy facts" and "not-so-happy facts" about vaginas, as well as deeply personal, real-life stories of empowerment, inner turmoil and self-reflection. The heavy monologues came interspersed with moments of humor and warmth, bringing the audience on an emotional journey of sympathy, discomfort, bemusement, joy and everything in between.

While the original, off-Broadway performance featured actresses delivering monologues alone onstage, the College production branched off to include group scenes, interpretive movements and interactive dialogues. The result was a fascinating and elegant narrative on sexuality, female identity and the challenges of womanhood, as performed by a cast of 14 female students.

"These monologues have been done a countless number of times," explained actress Akhila Khanna '17. "For more feeling of unity and community, this production incorporated many actors."

Indeed, in the intimate performing space of the Hepburn Zoo, where the actresses often stood within an arm's reach of the front row and some audience members sat sprawled on the floor, an overwhelming sense of support and solidarity resonated throughout the performance. Before the opening scene, Pandya and Markowitz led the audience in a rousing chant of "vagina," explaining that it was crucial that everyone become comfortable with the word before sitting through the highly uncensored 90-minute performance.

If anyone thought that "vagina" was bad, then they certainly must have felt squeamish during the opening scene as the cast named off a rapid-fire list of alternate names for the organ. From "Pussycat" in Great Neck, New York to "twat" in New Jersey to "Pooki" in Westchester, it quickly became clear that the vagina is the bearer of many colorful titles.

Yet, as narrator Jeanette Cortez '15 noted: "There's so much darkness and secrecy surrounding [vaginas] — like the Bermuda triangle. Nobody ever reports back from there."

Building from that, the play proceeded to unravel much of society's misperceptions surrounding the vagina — what it is like, what it goes through and what it needs. A sense of candid honesty pulsed through the monologues, a few of which ranted furiously against tampons, advocated for a greater love of vaginal hair (described sweetly by Becca Hicks '15 as "the leaf around the flower, the lawn around the house") and recounted one woman's first pleasurable, lesbian experience. In the latter enticing monologue, "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could," KJ Davidson-Turner '17.5 took on a fascinatingly complex character with a traumatic past.

"I realize later [the lady] was my surprising, unexpected and politically incorrect salvation," Davidson-Turner stated in her vivid closing lines. "She transformed my sorry-ass Coochi Snorcher and raised it into a kind of heaven."

As the play charged on, the crowd clapped, laughed and snapped appreciatively at each new striking commentary and witty insight. At other moments, when the scenes broached on incredibly dark themes of rape, genital mutilation and abuse, the room fell silent.

"Female genital mutilation has been inflicted on approximately 130 million girls and young women," narrator Cortez stated at one point. "In the 28 countries where it is practiced, mostly in Africa, about three million young girls a year can expect the knife — or the razor or a glass shard — to cut their clitoris or remove it altogether."

Like many audience members hearing this fact for the first time, actress Mary Baillie '18 found it difficult to deal with such heavy material.

"I still can't listen to that," she said. "I was really happy because my monologue was right after [the genital mutilation piece], so I could just go to the dressing room and get ready for that. I would just sit there with my ears covered."

One scene in particular managed to strike a touching balance between deep vulnerability and lightheartedness. Wrapped in a dark red shawl and hunched over on a stool, Michelle Kim '17 enraptured the audience in a poignant tribute to one elderly woman's closeted relationship to her "down-there." Following a nervous sexual encounter in her teens, she now refers to her vagina as damp, clammy, and "closed due



MICHAEL O'HARA

Becca Hicks '15 performs 'Hair' with the help of her *Vagina Monologues* castmates.

to flooding."

"I haven't been down there since 1953. No, it had nothing to do with Eisenhower," she said, prompting giggles from the crowd.

With no theatrics or fellow actresses for onstage support, Kim spoke directly into the audience, putting her earnest storytelling skills and endearing mannerisms on full display.

While the power of her performance lay in its quiet, thoughtful honesty, another highly impactful scene featured a dynamic self-written monologue by Khanna and Sally Seitz '17. Hailing respectively from New Delhi, India and Nashville, Tennessee, the two women channeled the strict sexual standards of each of their cultures by preaching impassionately to the audience. Khanna wore Hindu prayer beads around her neck, while Sally donned a large cross necklace.

"Thou shall not touch thyself. Thou shalt

have no idea what it looks like down there," Seitz said.

"Do not sleep around. Bilkul Nahi," Khanna announced sternly. "We choose your single sexual partner."

Their lines played off of each other, crafting an intriguing parallel between two seemingly far-removed places. Near the end, their monologues began to intersect even more closely, as both actresses paused and asked simultaneously, "Why do I feel guilty? Is this my fault?"

While the entire show ventured outside normal boundaries of comfort, perhaps the most unforgettably daring moment came down to a scene in which each actress mimicked a certain type of sex moan. The cast arranged themselves in various positions onstage — standing, sprawled out with their legs slightly open, and lying down — and took turns simulating such sounds as the "doggy" moan, the "college" moan ("I should be studying. I should be studying") and the "tortured Zen" moan, an exaggerated, twisted cry that left the audience in hysterics.

Though Khanna initially felt uneasy about the moaning scene, she eventually came to terms with the bold material.

"The minute you imagine yourself as an advocate for female sexuality and for other people who are as shy and as uncomfortable about the word 'vagina' as you are, it's a lot easier to go onstage," she said. "You're representing other people's stories and hardships."

With every piece of biting social commentary or provocative phrase uttered onstage, *The Vagina Monologues* burst open a subject that remains largely untouched in everyday conversation. Through its unapologetic forwardness, the show put on stunning display both the fearlessness of the cast and many inconvenient realities of the female experience. Uncomfortable as some of the topics may be, the messages of empowerment, exploration and acceptance behind the production deserve to be heeded. As such, perhaps it was fitting that this year's rendition of *The Vagina Monologues* coincided with Valentine's Day weekend.

"Everyone should take the time to appreciate the women in their life," Baillie said. "The power of the female is unstoppable."



MICHAEL O'HARA

Gabrielle Owens '17 performs 'I Was There in the Room' during the second annual presentation of *The Vagina Monologues*.

DON'T MISS THIS

Painting in Water-Based Media

An exhibition of paintings in water-based media from visiting professor Jenny Kemp's class, including watercolor, gouache, acrylic, and ink. Sponsored by the Program in Studio Art. Free of charge.

2/19-2/24, JOHNSON MEMORIAL BUILDING

Moving Toward Architecture for All

Is it possible to make architecture for all? Is it a worthwhile goal? What does it even mean? Architects John McLeod and Stephen Kredell present their firm's work to date, their teaching, and their community-based design/build program in Maine.

2/19, 7:00 PM, JOHNSON MEMORIAL BUILDING, ROOM 304

Materializing a Modern Italy

Lecture by Dr. Marin R. Sullivan of Keene State College. The Esposizione Internazionale del Lavoro (International Labor Exhibition) was a main component of Italia '61, the international exhibition celebrating the centenary of Italy's unification.

2/25, 4:30-6:00 PM, MAHANEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ROOM 125

Students to Bring Literature to Life

By Leah Lavigne

There are few disciplines which naturally complement each other as well as theatre and English, and an exciting inaugural event aims to bridge the literary and performing arts worlds while creating deeper connections between the student body and the larger Middlebury community.

On Tuesday, Feb. 24, *New England Review* editor-in-chief Carolyn Kuebler, Professor of Theatre Dana Yeaton and Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts (MCA) Director Liza Sacheli will present a collaborative, multi-faceted evening, combining recent works from the internationally renowned, Middlebury-based literary magazine with the talents of student orators and writers. The event, "NER Out Loud," will feature seven dramatic student readings of *New England Review* material in the Concert Hall of the MCA at 7:30 p.m., followed by 'S'more Readings,' a unique showcase of work from three student-run literary magazines, *Sweatervest*, *Blackbird* and *Room 404*, accompanied by a s'mores-themed treat reception in the lobby of the MCA.

The event takes inspiration from the 'Selected Shorts' program, a weekly radio podcast broadcast on Public Radio International to over 300,000 listeners that enlists the talents of prominent actors to read both established and emerging fiction, usually centered on a theme, author or special collaboration. Kuebler, who took the reins of the *New England Review* from 20-year editor-in-chief and Director of Literary Studies Stephen Donadio in Jan. 2014, saw a diversity of artistry present in the College and town communities that presented a rare opportunity to establish a distinctly Mid-

dlebury version of the show. The idea began percolating in her mind in the spring of 2014, and with the help of Sacheli and Yeaton, an event quickly formed.

"I've been to a lot of theatre productions at the College, and I have always been impressed by the acting and how sophisticated and poised the students are, so the idea of putting on an event with some students was always interesting to me," Kuebler said. "I approached Liza because she was interested in doing some more literary programming, and when I talked to her, she said that Dana would be a good candidate. It turns out that Dana wears a number of different hats, and in addition to teaching and playwriting and the other involvements in the Theatre Department, he also heads this new group called the Oratory Society."

The Oratory Society began with a group of students taking Yeaton's J-term 2014 Speechmaking course who wanted more opportunities to practice public speaking and the increasingly rare art of oration. Students from the Theatre Department and many other disciplines soon expressed interest in joining, and the group has quickly grown, performing officially for the first time at the 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorio before offering workshops in spring 2014 and making strides to be recognized as an official organization last fall. As of this spring, the group has almost 20 mem-

bers under the leadership of Oratory Society President Liam Knox '17.

"It's been fun to do a little match-making and discuss which of the pieces we've published over the past year would make for good live reading," Kuebler said. "We were more concerned about readability, range and immediacy of the text. We wanted to have a variety and a way to showcase the *New England Review* and the different kinds of writing that we publish. Some works have a storytelling feel that grab the listener, but some are more abstract and poetic or philosophical."

After selecting appropriate pieces from the *New England Review* to send to Yeaton, he in turn sent out the possibilities for further review by student actors and members of the Oratory Society. Caitlin Duffy '15.5 is one of the seven students reading at "NER Out Loud."

"Dana sent students four documents that each had a collection of short stories and poems, and we suggested which ones we'd like to read," Duffy said. "I'm reading a short story, so we will pare it down for oration. The idea is getting a literary text into a performance realm. I think approaching literature from this perspective is really special, and it helps me understand it more."

Melissa MacDonald '15 will also be reading a literary selection at the event.

"Sometimes you read in your head in

a way that maybe misses all the connotations and rhythms that a word can carry if you say it out loud," she said. "The idea is that we can bring clarity to texts that sometimes you don't quite understand fully when you read them to yourself. Hopefully when we read out a story we place enough emphasis and character within it that the insight that the piece is trying to provide shines."

Following the main portion of the evening will be 'S'more Readings,' a collaborative idea devised by Kuebler and Sacheli in which students will read their own work from *Sweatervest*, *Blackbird* and *Room 404* student literary magazines in the lower lobby of the MCA. Mini amps will be accompanied by mini ovens for toasting marshmallows for s'mores, and attendees of the reception will be able to freely browse the magazines and talk with representatives from each.

"It is in my best interest to get more people to know about and engage with the *New England Review*, but I think that there are a lot of literary students on campus who wouldn't mind coming out of the woodwork with their magazine," Kuebler said. "They might have more of an opportunity to show what they've been up to under the umbrella of the *New England Review*. We have all of the same interests as literary magazines."

In addition to Duffy and MacDonald, Kevin Benscheidt '17, Brenna Christensen '17, Cole Ellison '17, Jabari Matthew '17 and Sally Seitz '17 will read selections at the event. *Sweatervest* and *Room 404* will be represented by Nick Kaye '17 and Dylan Redford '15, respectively, and *Blackbird* will feature delegates Emily Luan '15 and Doug LeCours '15. The event is free and open to the public.

Arts Spotlight: Performing Arts Series

By Connor Forrest



"When I hear music, I fear no danger. I am invulnerable. I see no foe. I am related to the earliest times, and to the latest."

— Henry Thoreau

Or, in the words of Albus Dumbledore, "Ah music, a magic beyond all we do here." As I sit in Davis, writing this article with the melodies of this week's Performing Arts Series artist quickening through my headphones, I am inclined to agree.

Granted, I have been known to cast a spell or two, but as I listen to songs composed half a world away, in a different time by a

different people, it is clear music transcends language, time and distance in a way my Winter Ball antics never will. Music makes the world smaller.

Herbert Kinobe is an exceptional Ugandan multi-instrumentalist, a vocalist, and a composer known for his inspired synthesis of African roots and global fusion. With his music comes an incredible amount of history and culture. His performances all over the African continent and the world are not just shows, they are opportunities to teach and learn, to bring people together through the universality of music.

When preparing to write this article, I watched several of Kinobe's concerts and although I recognized few of the instruments, I was amazed by how familiar the melodies felt, as if I had spent my life with them.

The familiarity with which Kinobe interacts with and enfolds the audience into the performance fades the formality of the event into background. What we are left with is a homey, comfortable environment that welcomes us to embrace our global citizenship and to appreciate music so foreign yet so familiar.

Kinobe talks about the various instruments, their names and roots and cultural value, bringing the audience on a journey through his identity. This Friday, Feb. 20 at 8:00 p.m. in the Mahaney Center for the Arts (MCA), Kinobe and three musical collaborators will perform a free, acoustic-spirited concert to share this experience with us.

Born near Lake Victoria in Uganda, Kinobe now performs all over the world, bringing a powerful World-roots-dance sound to festival main stages and theatres, and captivating solo and acoustic shows that showcase the diversity of traditional African instruments. He uses koras, kalimbas, adungus, endongos, ngonis, and percussion to invite audiences into his culture, describing the instruments and their roles in African society and history.

In many ways, music is one of the most revealing and expressive parts of any culture. This concert is an incredible opportunity to not only bask in soothing melodies and dance

with frenzied beats but also to peek into humankind.

Kinobe is not only a musician; he is also a World Ambassador for the Harmony Foundation. There, he supports work on environmental protection, social development, and the improvement of the lives of children and their families around the globe.

In 2013, the Foundation sponsored his band WAMU Spirit in recording the CD "Searching for Survival," an uplifting expression of hope that people around the globe can work together to make the world a healthier, more peaceful, and just place to live. Kinobe has also campaigned with UNICEF to support education for girls, and works extensively with schools and communities on outreach and education programs globally.

Kinobe's concert is the first of several lead-up events to an early April residency with the Nile Project. The Nile Project brings together artists from many of the 11 Nile countries to make music that combines the region's diverse instruments, languages, and traditions.

The concert experience aims to inspire cultural curiosity, highlight regional connections, and showcase the potential of transboundary cooperation. In this case, Nile Project participants hope to use music to facilitate cooperation over the region's water supply.

The next lead-up events are three lecture/demonstrations on Nile region music, dance, and cultural collaboration by ethnomusicologist Sylvia Nannyonga-Tamusuza, to take place Mar. 2, 3 and 4. Go/nileproject for further information about the Nile Project at Middlebury!

Kinobe's concert is a rare opportunity for Middlebury students to hear and learn about authentic, moving music from Africa, right here in our own arts center. "Music From Africa" will take place on Friday, Feb. 20 at 8:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts.

Professor of Music and ethnomusicologist Damascus Kafumbe will lead a pre-concert talk with the artist at 7:00 p.m. in MCA 221. Both events are free and open to the public—no tickets required.



COURTESY MCA

Kinobe will bring his global dance and music fusion to the MCA on Friday, Feb. 20.

CARNIVAL SPOTLIGHT: CLOUD NOTHINGS & VACATIONER

By Luke Linden

This past weekend ushered in the College's 92nd annual Winter Carnival. Alongside the spectator sports and high-energy dances, the Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) presented a concert in Wilson Hall on Friday, Feb. 13. The show featured three musical acts across a myriad of genres and made for an engaging, idiosyncratic musical experience.

The brief opening act was a new student band, Movies, featuring Will Cuneo '15, Nick Rehms '15.5 and Bjorn Peterson '15.5 in a punk-rooted ensemble with an impressively polished sound and engaging stage presence. As they played through a set of dynamic songs, often shifting time signature or tempo mid-song for a diverse listening experience, their energy was palpable. The performance featured improvisatory ornamentation, particularly in the vocal arena.

Eased between two punk acts, Vacationer, based out of Philadelphia and Brooklyn, offered a sharp tonal contrast to headliner Cloud Nothings. Frontman Kenny Vasoli has described their music as "Nu-hula," and their tropics-infused, surf-rock rooted sound was in rare form on Friday. Featuring Ryan Zimmaro on drums, Michael Mullin on keyboard, Greg Altman on guitar and Matthew Young on a hard-to-miss vibraphone, the band was accompanied by a video projection of what could have been old footage of band members' seaside summers. Perhaps culled from childhoods past, the intercut tropical scenes would have put the Brazilian Tourist Board to shame.

Vacationer's breezy set and mood-setting technical effects created a sunny, feel-good experience. What made the show truly engaging were the dedicated performances of the band members, particularly Vasoli, whose goofy grin and mess of curly hair enhanced his bubbly demeanor and confident stage presence. If his quirky dance moves were any indication, Vasoli seemed to be enjoying his indoor beach party as much as the audience before him.

More than anything, Vacationer seemed committed to making the audience feel good inside. At the end of the band's set, as the scene of a family enjoying some faraway beach rolled in the backdrop and the band eased into another string of sweet, yearning melodies, it became nearly impossible to resist the temptation to loosen your hips and give yourself over to the good vibes.

Following this dreamlike set, Cloud Nothings came thundering in, providing a stark contrast to the easy listening and buoyancy of the preceding set. The three-

piece act, a far cry from its origins as an underground solo project by frontman Dylan Baldi, fully embraced the caustic, dissonant style indicative of the band's latest record, "Here and Nowhere Else." Yet amidst the searing riffs of bassist Dan Saleh and propulsive, acrobatic work of drummer Jayson Gerycz lay melodies and a harmonic structure as effective and pop-oriented as Baldi's initial solitary efforts.

Within this thrilling and profuse experience, moments of urgency - sometimes bordering on anxiety - passed by. However, the immaculate structure of the songwriting offered a sense of precision amidst the madness. Each song played

less like an endless jam and more like a roller coaster or a lightning rod speeding through the air, fathomable only in its larger structure. In the end, the intricacies of each virtuosic run in the guitar or deafening drum line formed a breathtaking whole.

Cloud Nothings, if not for every listener, was an undeniable marvel and an impressive and accomplished ensemble that has mastered the nuances of a highly impressive song catalogue. In one of the most jaw-dropping moments of the performance, a lengthy song reached a brief rest amidst a cresting crescendo. All three performers managed to hit this millise-

cond of silence in perfect synchronicity before launching back into a whirlwind of screeching guitar and propulsive percussion. This incredible moment, demonstrative of Baldi, Saleh, and Gerycz's impressive skills as instrumentalists, rendered extremely effectively in live performance.

Audience reaction is bound to vary following a performance like that of Cloud Nothings, but it is perhaps indisputable that their set was the dark, harrowing peak of an impressive and dynamic concert. All in all, MCAB's Concert Committee succeeded in bringing together polished, accomplished acts for an engaging concert with something for nearly anyone.



Cloud Nothings lead vocalist Dylan Baldi has transformed his first basement solo efforts in 2009 into a dynamic punk-rock trio.

ONE LIFE LEFT

BY ALEX NEWHOUSE

How do you confront the unthinkable? How do you persevere in the darkest situation imaginable, when everything familiar and comforting is warped and erased? How do you face the destruction of the human race? Like so many other works of fiction, *The Last of Us* tackles these questions and tries to present some spark of hope in the hopelessness of the apocalypse.

From the shattered highways to the roving bands of cannibals to the dynamic, intense love story between a child and a fatherly figure, *The Last of Us* exudes the influence of the novelist Cormac McCarthy. But although it shares a lineage with *The Road*, *The Last of Us* goes even deeper, impacting the very foundation of what it means to be human, by making the player take control of a violent, ruthless, but wildly protective and compassionate protagonist.

This game is a descent into the deepest areas of the human mind, where actions swing suddenly from the tender and caring to the brutal and animalistic. It is, put simply, a masterpiece. It transcends what it means to be a game, giving the player an experience that rivals the most moving novels and the most

profound films.

The Last of Us chronicles the journey of a grizzled, rough man named Joel and his companion, a young girl named Ellie. The vast majority of humans have been infected by a fungus that hijacks their minds and renders them husks hell-bent on spreading the infection. The game follows Joel and Ellie as they travel across the United States, meeting others along the way who both help and hurt them in their quest to elude the infected.

But this is not simply a zombie story. Between bouts of tense and heart-wrenching violence, lulls in the game provide opportunities for touching and emotional vignettes about both Ellie and Joel. Ellie's soft exclamation of "Look! Fireflies!" belies an otherwise tough and weathered exterior of a girl grown old beyond her years. Tracing notes throughout a sewer system uncovers the story of a man and his quest for survival and acceptance. Graffiti on the walls hints at an underground insurgency dedicated to overthrowing the dictatorial military state in power. And throughout the game, Joel's brutality softens into something nearing love as his relationship with Ellie

becomes stronger.

When you're not wandering the world and looking for supplies, you will be fighting the infected. The fighting is punctuated by brutal executions and an excess of blood and gore, but rather than glamorizing the fighting, the extreme bodily destruction emphasizes the dark, anarchic world. It's not fun — but it's effective. It makes you think about your actions, it makes you feel for the victims and it makes you disgusted with the necessity of the violence.

And with every moment in the game, the most perfect music swells to fit the scene. *The Last of Us* has the best soundtrack I have ever heard. Its eerie

percussive beats and lethargic guitar melodies exactly fit the atmosphere of the game, and I still cannot listen to the opening piece without shivering a little as I remember how it felt to first enter that world and confront the monumental task of survival.

On a psychological level, this game is hard to play. The combat sequences are suspenseful and I found myself approaching each one extremely tentatively. Encounters with the infected often bordered on terrifying, and I be-

came jumpy whenever I heard the tell-tale scratchy shrieks of the Clickers, the most menacing of the infected. But fortunately, there are lulls in the combat. The most striking moments in the game come between fights, when the world goes silent and you have free reign to wander the abandoned houses, to read journals left by children sent to quarantine and to wonder what happened in each new region you explore. And ultimately, the game concludes at its highest point: nostalgic, intense, full of flawed love, and with a great exhale of stress as you realize that your journey across the country has finally come to a close.

The Last of Us is a game, but it is also an interactive novel and a huge, rich, realistic world. This is the story of a destroyed America just as it is the tale of a man's relationship with a girl, and how, between the two, some small part of the emotional, irrational and magnificent side of humanity survives. It is sad, it is bleak, it is desperate, but *The Last of Us* captures a piece of the human experience more perfectly than the vast majority of fiction before it. This is one of the best games ever, and it follows well in the legacy of *The Road* as one of the best pieces of post-apocalyptic literature ever created.

THE LAST OF US

Men's Hockey Splits against Rival Ephs

By Charlie Ascher

The Middlebury men's hockey team went .500 in a pivotal rivalry home-and-home against Williams this past weekend, picking up the victory at home on Friday, Feb. 13, 2-0 before losing on the road 5-4 on Saturday, Feb. 14.

The Panthers started off the weekend on a positive note. Coming off a 3-0 shutout win over Wesleyan the weekend before, Middlebury prepared to square off against the 12th-ranked Williams College Ephs. Following an early Williams' opportunity that was denied by Middlebury goaltender Stephen Klein '18, the Panthers took control of the period. Less than two minutes after the Williams opportunity, the Panthers were on the board. At 5:57 into the first period Evan Neugold '16 fired a shot from the crease that was denied, but stuck with the play and slipped in the rebound for his seventh goal of the season. Just 30 seconds into the second period it looked as if Williams would tie the

game as a shot dribbled past Klein, but a rapid reaction from Panther defender Terrance Goguen '16 cleared the puck off the goal line and kept Williams off of the scoreboard. Three minutes later and the Panthers struck again with another goal off of a rebound 4:21 into the second. After Mike Najjar's '17 initial shot was saved, Ronald Fishman '16 picked up the rebound in the slot and put it away. Fishman's goal was the end of the scoring for the game as both teams clamped down and both goalies came up with some incredible saves. Middlebury managed to end their home season on a good note as they won 2-0 and outshot the Ephs 39 to 22. Klein picked up his third shutout of the season with the victory.

The next day the Panthers looked to continue the positive momentum as they traveled to Williamstown to complete the second half of the home-and-home. It became clear after the first period that Saturday's game would not be the low-scoring affair that Friday's

was. The Panthers took the lead 12:06 into the first period when Brendan McGovern '16 picked up the rebound off of a Cameron Romoff '17 shot and put it past the Williams' goaltender for his third of the season. Four minutes later, Williams answered to make it a 1-1 game. The tie did not last long however, as the Panthers scored again at the 18:20 mark. Jake Charles '16 found a rebound in front of the Williams net and backhanded it in to give the Panthers the 2-1 lead going into the second. Six minutes and 24 seconds into the second period Neugold increased the Middlebury lead to two. Neugold managed to get around both Williams defensemen and then shot it in glove side for a pretty goal. Unfortunately, Middlebury was unable to hold the lead in the high scoring second period and after forty minutes of play the game was tied 3-3. Charles struck once again for his team-leading 10th goal of the season 2:31 into the third. While on the power play Charles deflected a Romoff

shot from the point past the Williams goaltender to give Middlebury the 4-3 lead. The lead would not hold, however, as Williams managed to get two more pucks past Klein to give them the 5-4 lead with only 3:48 remaining in the third period. The Panthers went on the power play at the 17:18 mark but were unable to convert and the Ephs picked up the 5-4 victory. Middlebury outshot Williams 39-25 in the loss.

This coming weekend marks the final two regular season games for the Panthers as they jostle for position in the playoff bracket. Currently sitting just under .500 at 9-10-3 overall and 6-7-3 in the NESCAC, the Panthers will look to end the season with a winning record and victories in two key NESCAC away games. The Panthers will square off against Amherst on Friday, Feb. 20 and then play Hamilton Saturday, Feb. 21. While Middlebury has already secured a NESCAC playoff berth, the Panthers have an opportunity to improve their seeding with a good showing this weekend.

Women's Hockey Returns to the Postseason as Top Seed

By Fritz Parker

The Middlebury women's hockey team kept the good times rolling this past weekend, Feb. 13 and 14, recording a pair of wins over conference foe Williams to clinch the top seed in the upcoming NESCAC tournament and extend their winning streak to 10.

Playing on the road in Williamstown on Friday, the Panthers got an early goal from Jessica Young '18 for a 1-0 first-period lead. Young was assisted on that tally by Emily Fluke '15 and Janka Hlinka '18. A pair of Williams penalties gave Middlebury two man-up opportunities later in the period, but the Panthers were unable to capitalize, and went into the first break with a one-goal lead.

The second period was a quiet one on the scoreboard, with neither team able to break through. After killing off a penalty early in the period, the Panthers saw another two power plays come to an unsuccessful end before the buzzer sounded. The second period was a relatively even one in terms of scoring opportunities, with Williams holding a slight 10-9 advantage in shots.

Williams got the equalizer they were looking for in the eighth minute of the closing period, when Eph Eliza Noyes snuck the puck past Panther goalkeeper Annabelle Jones '15 to knot the game at one. Penalties were again a sore spot for Williams, however, as the Ephs took two penalties in less than 10 seconds to give Middlebury a lengthy five-on-three opportunity midway through the third. Maddie Winslow '18 was the Panther who took advantage, scoring with help from Young and Fluke to give her team the lead.

Middlebury was able to survive two stretches of man-down play as the clocked

ticked towards zero, hanging on for the narrow 2-1 win.

Penalties were the difference in the game, with Williams taking six – including two which led to the eventual game-winner – to Middlebury's three. Due in part to their wealth of man-up opportunities, the Panthers held a 28-20 shooting advantage in the game.

For Saturday's game, the action moved up Route Seven to Middlebury's Kenyon Arena for the Panthers' regular-season conference finale. Middlebury coach Bill Mandigo played senior Maddie Marsh '15 in goal on Saturday, continuing the two-goalie rotation that has proven to be effective throughout the season.

Despite 11 shots on goal, Middlebury was not able to score in the opening period of play. Eph Alex Lovaas went to the box for tripping in the ninth minute of play, but the ensuing power play did not result in any scoring.

Winslow again provided the spark that her team needed in Saturday's game. Midway through the second period, the first-year took a feed from Victoria Laven '17 and Carly Watson '17 and found the back of the net to help the Panthers to a 1-0 advantage. Williams had several opportunities to even the score in the second half of the period, but Marsh and the Panther defense held firm and Middlebury went into the second break clinging to another one-goal lead.

That lead would not stay at one for long. Fluke – with help from Young and Watson – scored in just the second minute of the final period for a Panther insurance goal. Young followed that up two minutes later with a goal of her own, this time getting the assist from Fluke. Seeing the lead suddenly blown up to three goals, the Panthers were able to

ride out the rest of the period with strong defensive play. Fluke netted her second goal of the game – this one an empty-netter – as time expired to bring the lead to its final 4-0 margin.

Marsh stopped all 20 Eph shots she faced on Saturday for her third shutout in just 12 starts. The senior has excelled in her role as part-time starter alongside Jones, winning 10 of those 12 starts in goal without losing a single game. Marsh's goals against average of 1.23 ranks second in the conference, and her save percentage of .943 ranks third – both impressive statistics for a player who started just five games all of last year.

Jones, meanwhile, has been just as effective in the crease for Middlebury. She also ranks among the top 10 netminders in the NESCAC in goals against average and winning percentage.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs. Williams	4-0^W
MEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Trinity	90-85^L
WOMEN'S SQUASH vs. Bates	7-2^W
MEN'S HOCKEY vs. Williams	5-4^L
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL vs. Trinity	62-54^L

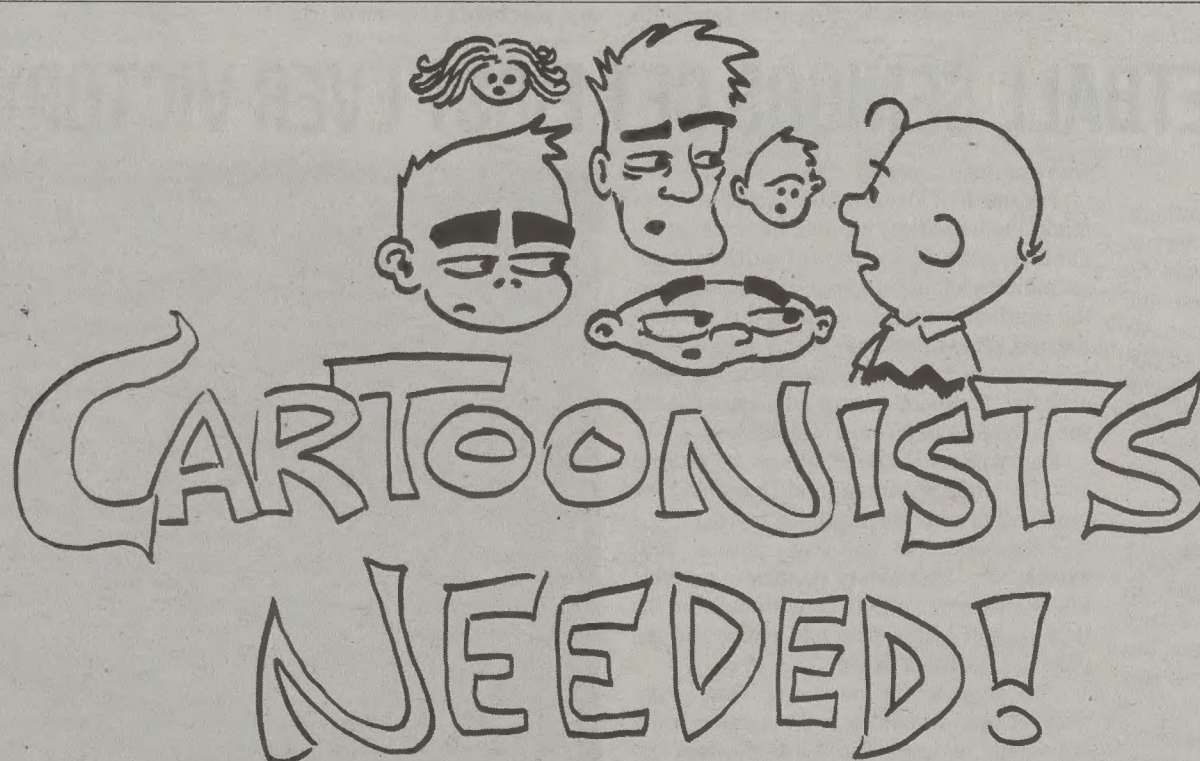
The Panthers secured the top seed in the NESCAC Tournament on senior night at home.

The Panthers staged a furious comeback from a 22 point deficit, but will not advance to the postseason.

The women's team defeated Bates to go 1-1 in the CSA Team Championships.

The men's team outshot the Ephs but was unable to go 2-0 on the weekend.

Despite the loss the squad will appear in the NESCAC Tournament as the seventh or eighth seed.



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Track Distance Runners Cruise in Boston

By Bryan Holtzman

In spite of the pending blizzard, men's and women's track and field traveled to Boston on Feb. 13-14 to compete in a pair of meets: the Boston University David Hemery Valentine Invitational and the Gordon Kelly Invitational hosted by MIT. "Valentine," as the BU meet is colloquially known, is one of the largest meets in the country with over 3,500 athletes toeing the line. Several Olympic medalists have raced in the meet. As such, it is one of the best opportunities for Middlebury athletes to run fast.

The women raced at BU on Friday, Feb. 13 and put up some spooky-good times. Alex Morris '16 continued to drop time in the 400m, running 59.10 seconds, her first time under one minute this season. In the mile, Erzsie Nagy '17 ran a swift time of 5:02.95. Two heats later, Summer Spillane '15 and Robin Vincent

'18 took the top two spots in their section, finishing with times of 5:03.72 and 5:04.34 respectively. Sarah Guth '15 also ran a strong race, completing the distance in 5:07.22. Many hours later, running after 10:30pm, Adrian Walsh '16 raced the 5000m, finishing the 25-lap race in 17:32.53.

After a long day on Friday, Nagy, Vincent, and Paige Fernandez '17 were joined by Alison Maxwell '15 in the 4000m distance medley relay (DMR) on Saturday morning. The DMR consists of 1200m (Maxwell), 400m (Fernandez), 800m (Vincent) and 1600m (Nagy) legs, in that order. The quartet raced to a time of 11:44.92 — marginally faster than the All-American team the Panthers fielded last year, the third fastest time in school history, and the fastest Division III time in the country in the meet by over 16 seconds.

Nagy said of her weekend, "The double

wasn't bad. I did feel Friday's race a bit in my legs during the last half of my leg in the DMR. I had no idea what my pace was, and it was nice to know that it felt faster than the open mile because I really was running faster, not just because I was tired ... I am so impressed by the mid-distance/distance runners who ran this weekend! We have only done speed work in the pool, and most people still had amazing races! Running an 11:44 certainly wasn't the plan, but it's nice to start fresh and get a benchmark that exceeded all of our expectations."

The mile race highlighted the men's day. Wilder Schaaf '14.5 set a new school record with a time of 4:09.89, a time that ranks him seventh in Division III according to NCAA track indexing. Sam Cartwright '16 and Sam Klockenkemper '17 ran two heats after Schaaf and both set indoor personal bests, clocking times of 4:13.58 and 4:16.86 respectively.

Schaaf's race was by far his best of the season.

"It always takes me a couple races to figure my swag out," Schaaf said. "So I never really know how fast I can go until I get into a good heat. I felt like I could run a lot faster than I had before, but I was a little surprised at getting under 4:10."

In the 800m, Kevin Serrao '18 and Luke Carpinello '16 raced to fast times in the same heat. Serrao took second in the section in 1:55.59 and Carpinello was not far behind, finishing in 1:56.74, an indoor personal best.

At the lower-key MIT meet, Taylor Shortsleeve '15 broke his school record in the high jump by a centimeter, leaping 1.95m (6 feet 4.75 inches).

The teams start the post-season this weekend, competing in the Division III New England Championships on Feb. 21. The women will race at MIT while the men will race at Springfield.

Women's Basketball Earns Tournament Bid, Road Quarterfinal Set at Bowdoin

By Joe MacDonald

Despite dropping two games to conference foes this past weekend on the road, the Middlebury women's basketball team earned the opportunity to play in the NESCAC postseason tournament for the 10th time in school history. The seventh-seeded Panthers will travel to Brunswick this Saturday, Feb. 21 to lock horns with second-seeded Bowdoin, who bested Middlebury 53-43 earlier this month.

Head Coach KJ Krasco secured a NESCAC tournament berth in her first year at the program's helm, but would have liked to end the regular season on a better note.

"We wanted to try our best to put together a solid 40 minute game on Friday and Saturday," Krasco said. "Unfortunately we didn't play as well as we would have liked, which resulted in two losses."

BY THE NUMB3RS

4 School records broken by women's swimming & diving on the opening day of the NESCAC Championship.

92 Winter Carnivals held at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl.

10 Years since the men's basketball team has failed to qualify for the NESCAC Tournament.

0 Number of losses for the women's hockey team since the beginning of December.

14 More shots on goal for the Men's Hockey team than Williams (39-25).

Middlebury began the weekend with a contest at Trinity on Friday, Feb. 8 in which the Panthers made a late push but were unable to overcome the nine-point halftime deficit.

Middlebury kept the contest close for the game's first seven-plus minutes, but a 9-0 Bantam run left the Panthers down by eight. Middlebury tried to claw back but could not bring the deficit below four points, and entered halftime trailing 29-20.

Sabrina Weeks '18 and Elizabeth Knox '17 opened the second half with a pair of layups to make it a five-point game. Later in the period, another Weeks layup closed the gap to three. The game went back and forth with Trinity stretching the lead out to eight, and Knox again shrinking it to three.

With just 1:48 left in the game, Krystina Reynolds '17 sunk a layup, decreasing the Panther point deficit to just two points. Unfortunately, Trinity hit a three-pointer seconds later, and made 7-8 free throws down the stretch to clinch a 62-54 victory.

Knox paced the offensive attack for the Panthers, scoring 19 points with a 8-14 shooting ratio, and winning eight rebounds. Further scoring contributions came from Alexis Coolidge '15 who netted nine points, and Weeks who scored eight.

The Panthers returned to action at 11th-ranked Amherst on Sunday, Feb. 15 for their final regular season NESCAC game. Amherst entered the game with 20-2 overall and 8-1 in-conference records, and were able to dispatch of the Panthers 61-33. The Lord Jeffs have now won 109 straight games at home in LeFrak Gymnasium.

Weeks opened the scoring in the game with

a layup on the Panthers' second possession. Neither team was able to separate itself in the first half, and at one point there was a five minute stretch where only one basket was scored by either side. Knox made a layup with 30 seconds remaining in the half to make it a 25-19 game.

"In the first half," Crews said, "we were able to compete with a top 25 team, despite not playing our best basketball. That first half was another example of how we can compete with any team in the NESCAC when we are mentally focused and communicating."

Amherst put the pedal to the medal in the second half, which opened with a 13-5 Lord Jeffs' run. Crews hit a three-pointer to bring Middlebury within 11, but Amherst soon exploded on a 17-point run to blow the game open.

Overall, the Panthers struggled against the NESCAC's second-ranked defense, shooting 22 percent (13-59) from the floor. Sarah Kaufman '18 was the only Panther to record double figures, tallying 11 points and adding six rebounds. Coolidge snagged six boards as well for Middlebury.

"I thought we competed in both games [this weekend]," Krasco said, "we were able to play well for portions of both games, but not consistently enough throughout the entire game."

The Panthers will have their work cut out for them when they meet 21-3 (9-1) Bowdoin this coming Saturday, Feb. 21.

"Our goal is to ... become a mentally tougher team this week in practice to prepare for our opponent this weekend," Krasco said. "We have to execute on both ends of the floor and play better in order to win."

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT GR8 EIGHT

RANKING	TEAM Mac's Musings
	SWIMMING & DIVING <i>In particular, Jamie Hillas '15, Morgan Burke '17, Megan Griffin '16 and Courtney Haron '15.</i>
1	
	WOMEN'S HOCKEY <i>Big wins over Williams helped clinch the tournament's top seed.</i>
2	
	SKIING <i>A strong performance coupled with all the weekend festivities earns skiing the three spot.</i>
3	
	TRACK & FIELD <i>The distance teams in particular have been hot of late.</i>
4	
	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL <i>Tough weekend, but the girls are in the playoffs - a huge improvement over last season.</i>
5	
	WOMEN'S SQUASH <i>They weren't able to pull off the victory over Williams, but ended the season on a high note against Bates.</i>
6	
	MEN'S HOCKEY <i>They have a great chance to improve their seeding this weekend. Pressure is on.</i>
7	
	MEN'S BASKETBALL <i>Likewise, men's basketball finished off with a decisive win against Amherst.</i>
8	

MEN'S BASKETBALL SENIORS GET FIRST EVER VICTORY VS. JEFFS

CONTINUED FROM 20

Sunday had no impact on the Panthers' chances of making the postseason. However, intrigue remained as the result would be the difference for Amherst between the second and fifth seeds in the tournament and for Middlebury it was Senior Day for five Panthers (Sinnickson, Merryman, captain Dean Brierley '15, Chris Churchill '15 and Eamon Cuddy '15), and they went out on a good note, defeating Amherst 82-69 and snapping the Lord Jeffs' six-game winning streak.

Starting the four seniors who had never before beaten Amherst, the amped-up Panthers jumped out to an early 13-8 lead as all four seniors found the bottom of the net. The Lord Jeffs answered with a 7-0 run to take the lead, but that would last for all of eight seconds before the Panthers exploded to outscore them 20-7 over the next 5:30 and build a 33-22 lead. When the first half ended, Middlebury held a 41-34 lead behind a balanced offensive effort — all 10 Panthers

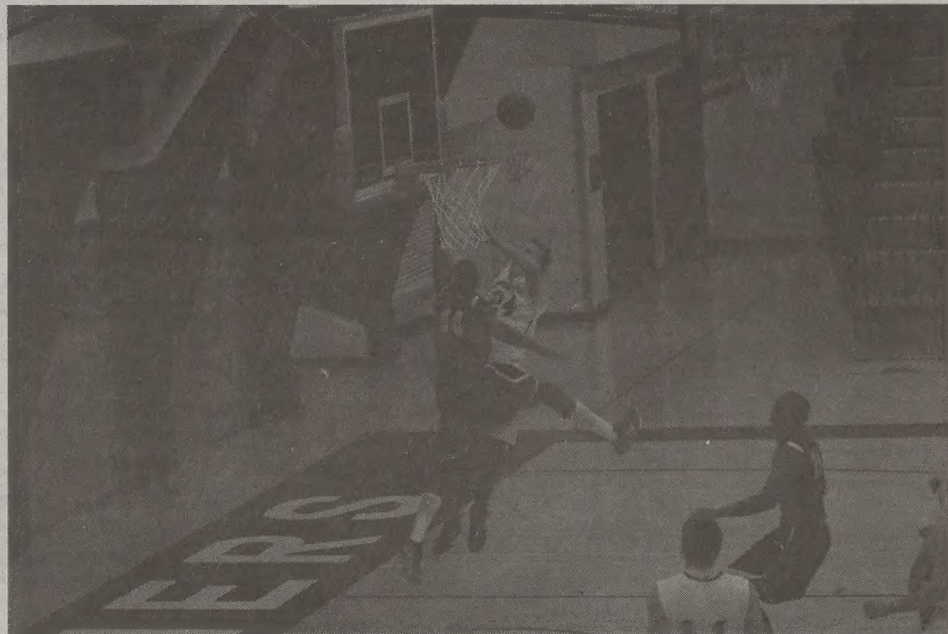
who saw action scored.

For much of the second half, neither team made much headway in either direction as the Panthers still held a 67-61 lead with just under six minutes left in the game. That changed as the Panthers went on a decisive 9-0 run over the next three minutes to put the game out of reach. When the buzzer sounded on the game and the Panthers' season, the scoreboard showed 82-69 in favor of Middlebury.

Merryman led the Panthers in scoring with 24, while St. Amour and Daley chipped in 18 and 14 respectively off the bench.

Sinnickson, a two-year starter and inarguably Middlebury's most valuable player this year, reflected emotionally on his final season in the blue and white and his playing career as a whole.

"It's great to end on a win," Sinnickson said. "It was a bright spot in a tough season. It's tough to leave Pepin Gymnasium. So many great memories. Thanks to all the fans and good luck to my teammates next season and the future of Middlebury basketball."



MICHAEL O'HARA

For the first time since 2006, the men's basketball team failed to qualify for the NESCAC tournament. The team finished 4-6 in conference and lost a tiebreaker to Colby.

Panther Skiers Place Third at Winter Carnival

By Colin McIntyre

At the annual winter carnival, the ski teams put together a strong showing to finish third. (783) behind carnival winners UVM (931) and runners up Dartmouth (788). Middlebury missed out on second place by only 5 points and beat fourth place UNH by 10 points in a crowded field.

The weekend races included Heather Mooney '15 leading the women's nordic team to team and individual wins in the 10K classic and the alpine women winning their first event of the season in the giant slalom on Saturday, February 14th.

In the alpine races at the Snow Bowl, the women placed fifth in slalom on Friday, February 13th. Mary Sackbauer '15 led the team with a sixth place time of 1:42.99, followed by Katy Greene '17 (1:46.43) in 16th and Elle Gilbert '16 (1:46.51) in 19th.

The women fared much better on Saturday. Katelyn Barclay '15 led a group of three Middlebury skiers in the top five with a third place time of 2:13.14. Her teammates Sackbauer (2:13.88) and Gilbert (2:14.00) came in directly behind her, leading to the Panther win. Barclay finished over two seconds behind the event winner. The three women were in second, third and fourth place after the first run, but a strong second run by Dartmouth's Foreste Peterson pushed her into second ahead of the consistent Panther women.

In the men's races on Friday, the team skied to a third place finish behind UVM and UNH. They also turned in their highest

point total in a slalom event this season. Rob Cone '17 (1:31.37), Colin Hayes '17 (1:33.00) and Christopher McKenna '17 (1:33.08) all scored for the Panthers, who finished with 109 points in the event. Cone sat in second place after the first run and turned in a third-best time on the second run. UNH's Coley Oliver managed to jump Cone for the win by half a second after a blistering second run. Hayes, who sat in 26th after the first run challenged Oliver's winning second run, coming in second only two tenths of a second back, launching him into the top ten. Middlebury's McKenna placed 12th.

In the giant slalom on Saturday, Cone led after the first run then slipped back into third overall with a time of 2:09.60, a second behind the winner. Teammates McKenna and Riley Plant '18 completed the strong overall showing with fifth and sixth place finishes of 2:09.71 and 2:09.86, respectively. Middlebury lost the GS event to UVM by a single point.

In the nordic events, the women continued the dominant momentum that they have established throughout the season. In the classic events on Friday, Mooney won the women's 10K by 10 seconds with a time of 31:01.2. Stella Holt '15 came in sixth (32:06.1) and Nicolette Amber '16 finished 14th (33:26.4). It was Mooney's third straight win, and Holt's third top 10 of the season in classic events. The women won the event by ten points over second place Bates.

"There is definitely a home course advantage for both nordic and alpine races," Holt said. "On the nordic side we are able to train



MICHAEL O'HARA

Luna Wasson '17 competes in the 10k classic during Winter Carnival last weekend.

every day on the exact same course we race on for our home carnival."

On Saturday in the skate race, Middlebury placed third behind UVM and UNH. Mooney placed second on the day, finishing the 5K in 16:11.2, three seconds back. Holt took 15th with a time of 17:13.9, and Amber took 19th in 17:20.7.

The men placed sixth on Friday in the classic races, and seventh on Saturday in the skate. Patrick McElravey '17 led the team with a 13th place finish in 27:10.7. Adam Luban '17 came in 17th with a time of 27:32.3, and Evan Weinman '18 (27:52) placed 25th. On Saturday, McElravey slid

into the top ten with a seventh place 26:20.1. Luban finished tied for 23rd with a time of 27:12.8, and Jacob Volz '18 came in in 29:30.6, good for 50th place.

Holt looked forward to the last carnival, saying, "We know we are capable of winning a day and even a weekend as a women's team as we have done it on multiple occasions throughout this season."

Next week, the ski teams are off, but head up to the St. Lawrence carnival in Lake Placid, NY for the EISA championships the week after. The carnival serves as the penultimate race before the NCAA championships, which will also be hosted by St. Lawrence.

Women's Squash Falls to Williams on National Stage

By Will Case

Middlebury women's squash spent their extended weekend in Cambridge, Massachusetts competing in the national tournament for the "B" division's "Kurtz Cup." Teams ranked ninth through sixteenth play for the Kurtz Cup on the season's final weekend.

The Panthers entered the tournament ranked 13th which meant they had to play twelfth ranked NESCAC rival, Williams in the first round. Middlebury looked to avenge their two losses to the Ephs earlier in the season Friday evening, but fell by the final tally of six matches to three.

Charlotte Dewey '15 and Zoe Carey '16 won in straight sets for the Panthers. Dewey won 11 to one, 11 to nine and 11 to eight from the third slot and Carey won 11 to seven, 11 to three and 11 to seven in the sixth slot.

Dewey remains the only Panther to collect a team point in all three matches against the Ephs this season while Carey continued to have the hottest hand on the team since returning from her semester abroad in January.

"I believe that I have improved over the course of the season," Carey said. "When I first came back from abroad in January, I felt really rusty because I had only played a few times while I was in Argentina. But because we have been training so hard this winter, I think our whole team has improved."

The Panthers were certainly frustrated that they could not overtake the Ephs in their third close affair of the season. Carey

added, "Williams has a very strong team and we have always had close matches with them. Even though we lost to Williams six to three, three of those matches went to five games, so it was incredibly close. I know that on another day, those matches could have gone our way instead of in favor of Williams."

Anne Wymard '15 echoed Carey's sentiments about the Williams match.

"Talking with [Assistant Coach] Brian [Cady] after the match we both agreed that as a team Williams was stepping forward and trying to end points more quickly than our team ... However, this time around Williams fought our endurance skills by keeping the points short, often

shooting first."

Saturday, the Panthers played in the consolation semifinals against Bates and had the match wrapped up before the snow began. Highlights in the seven to two dismantling of the Bobcats included all of the Panthers from the fifth through ninth slots winning in straight sets. Joining the bottom half of the lineup with a straight set victory was Dewey from the third slot, who won 11 to six in her first two sets and then closed out her opponent with an 11 to seven victory in her third set.

Due to the threat of a severe snowstorm in greater Boston Saturday night into Sunday, Sunday's consolation final match against the Drexel Dragons was cancelled. The women's team completes its season with sixteen wins and seven losses. The men's team will play in their national tournament this coming weekend in New Haven, Connecticut.

EDITORS' PICKS



REMO PLUNKETT (29-17, .630)



ALEX MORRIS (45-42, .517)



FRITZ PARKER (69-65, .514)



EMILY BUSTARD (23-23, .500)



JOE MACDONALD (42-49, .461)

Will Middlebury claim 1-2 in the women's mile at DIII New England Track & Field Championships at Smith College?

NO

It'll be close and Panthers will definitely be finishing near the top of the pack, just not in both first and second.

YES

Panthers can beat MIT Lady Engineers (I know right?) any day.

NO

I don't know, Alex, those Lady Engineers can run the mile.

NO

I want to say yes, but MIT is ranked third in the nation right now, and Middlebury is 25th.

YES

Alex runs distances, so I'm going to trust her.

Over/Under: 6.5 pool records to fall when Middlebury Men's Swimming & Diving hosts the NESCAC Championship?

UNDER

How many records can this team break in a single season?

OVER

I'm really moving up in the world. Editor's Picks domination will soon be mine once more.

OVER

2015 Williams kids > 2008 Williams kids (they have all the current records).

OVER

Times have definitely gotten faster since we last hosted NESCACs in 2008.

UNDER

This is just a blind guess ... maybe that's why I'm in the cellar again.

Closest to: Number of points (goals and assists) for Emily Fluke '15 when women's hockey takes on Plattsburgh State?

THREE

Close to her average on the season but I expect a big performance as the team concludes the regular season.

TWO

Her success ain't no fluke...

TWO

Goals can be hard to come by against Plattsburgh, but my old suitemate can get it done.

ONE

But it would be nice for the team if there was a fluke and she made more...

TWO

Good one, Alex.

Who will win the college hoops line-up between Michigan and Ohio State on Feb. 22?

OHIO STATE

I have to go with the higher seeded team on this one.

MICHIGAN

Whenever I wear Middlebury M shirt, I just go along with it now when people yell "go blue!" at me.

OHIO STATE

What's that about salads, Joe?

MICHIGAN

Going solely off of these team mascots, wolverines > buckeyes.

OHIO STATE

Should be a slam dunk, and OSU tossed Michigan's salad in January.

BEATING THE COLD

The ski teams took advantage of familiar snow at the Middlebury Winter Carnival, held at the Snow Bowl on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 13 and 14. The Panthers took third place overall, beating out UNH for the second time this season and nearly topping old rival Dartmouth as well. See page 19 for full coverage.



Women's Swimmers Take Third Place in NESCAC

By Emily Bustard

Last weekend, the Middlebury women's swimming and diving team traveled to the Wesleyan Natatorium in Middletown, Conn. to swim in the three-day NESCAC Championship meet on Feb. 13-15. Middlebury maintained the third-place position from day one of competition; defending their third-place title from last year with a score of 1,203.

While the Panthers were not able to edge out the league champion, Williams (2,103.5), or runner-up Bates (1,345), the women outswam Amherst (fourth place) by a solid 162 points to assert their dominance after an extremely tight loss by just 9.5 points to the Lord Jeffs at last year's championship. By placing significantly higher than sixth place Connecticut College, Middlebury righted another wrong after losing to the Camels in the first dual meet of the season back in November.

"We couldn't have done anything more last weekend as far as percentages of best times," said Head Coach Bob Rueppel of the Panthers' performance.

The first event served as a good indicator of what was to come, as the Middlebury quartet of Jamie Hillas '15, Morgan Burke '17, Megan Griffin '16 and Courtney Haron '15 placed third in the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:35.02), just 0.66 of a second behind first-place Williams, and seven hundredths behind Bates. This effort improved upon Middlebury's 2008 school record in the 200 free relay by 0.42

seconds.

The legendary team of Hillas, Burke, Griffin and Haron did not stop there, and went on to set another school record in the 400 freestyle relay during the final event of the meet by posting an NCAA 'B' cut time of 3:29.18. Though this time also surpassed the previous Wesleyan Natatorium pool record, Middlebury earned third place in the event behind Williams and Bowdoin.

The Panthers maintained their third-place trend with performances in the 400 medley relay by Sarah Bartholomae '18, Hillas, Griffin and Burke (3:49.13), as well as the 200 medley relay by Bartholomae, Hillas, Griffin and Haron (1:44.72).

Hillas carried the team's success in the relays into her individual events. After tying for first place in the 50 breaststroke last year, Hillas finished as the sole champion in the event this year, setting a pool record and improving upon her school record with a time of 28.82. On top of this, Hillas touched the wall second in the 100 breast (1:03.10) and fifth in the 200 breast (2:21.33).

The conference recognized Hillas for accumulating a total of 337 points throughout her four years of championship competition — the second-most ever earned by an individual.

Behind Hillas, Nora O'Leary '17 finished seventh in the 200 breast with an NCAA 'B' cut time of 2:22.29.

Griffin swam a 25:34 in the

50 butterfly to place second in the event. Also in butterfly, Lily Sawyer '16 finished sixth in the 200 fly (2:09.22) — having posted a NCAA 'B' cut time of 2:07.88 in her preliminary swim — and Margaret Pollack '18 placed 10th in the same event (2:10.46).

Another NCAA 'B' cut time came from Maddie Pierce '16 in the 400 individual medley prelims (4:35.62), where she placed eighth for Middlebury in the finals.

More top-10 performances included Burke's clocking a 52.29 in the 100 free for the seventh-place position, and Bartholomae's earning 10th place in the 200 back (2:07.64).

Diver Adrianna Baker '15 also made important contributions to the Panthers' success, placing fifth in the one-meter dive finals and fourth in the three-meter finals. She racked up 51 points in the meet.

Though conference competition is over, the Middlebury women who's NCAA 'B' cut times qualify will race in the NCAA Division III Swimming & Diving National Championships in Woodlands, Texas at the end of March. "We'll be going into that meet really trying to score top eight in all four of [our strong] relays, which would be a great accomplishment," said Coach Rueppel.

The men's Swimming and Diving team will host the men's NESCAC Championship this Friday-Sunday, Feb. 20-22 at the Middlebury Natatorium, hoping to better their seventh-place finish from last year's championship.

Men's Hoops Tops Lord Jeffs in Season Finale

By Andrew Rigas

The Middlebury men's basketball team finished its season this weekend by splitting its two home games and failing to qualify for the NESCAC championships. On Friday, Feb. 13, the Panthers fell to Trinity 90-85 before defeating Amherst 82-69 on Sunday, Feb. 15.

Entering the weekend, the Panthers stood at 3-5 in the NESCAC, good for an eighth-place (the final spot in the playoff bracket) tie with Wesleyan — although Middlebury held the tiebreaker thanks to the Panthers' 97-60 dismantling of the Cardinals earlier this year.

After getting significantly outplayed by Trinity in the first half and much of the second half on its home court, the Panthers frenziedly rallied to come within four points (conceivably a one-possession game), before eventually suffering a heartbreaking loss that would ultimately eliminate the Panthers from postseason play.

Middlebury took an early 8-4 lead, but Trinity quickly grabbed the driver's wheel with several first half spurts to take a 39-24 advantage at the halfway point. The Bantams had their way on the offensive end, making more than half of their shots, including several dunks and a 6-9 mark from beyond the arc, while the Panthers crawled to a lowly 31 percent mark from the field.

Trinity came out with that same high level of play to begin the second half, scoring the first seven points of the half to build its largest lead of the game, 46-24, at the 17:52 mark. Over the next

13 minutes, Middlebury slowly chipped away, but the Bantams still held a significant 74-59 advantage with 4:30 remaining.

Matt St. Amour '17 took over momentarily and scored 10 of his team's next 11 points as the Panthers pulled within 10 with just over two minutes left. Hoping to extend the game, the Panthers started fouling if they failed to force a turnover quickly with their frantic defense, and a combination of Trinity turnovers and missed free throws gave the Panthers the opportunity to shrink the lead to only four, 87-83, on a Dylan Sinnickson '15 tip-in with 26 seconds left.

The Panthers could not get any closer as Trinity's Jaquann Starks knocked down one of two free throws, and Sinnickson missed a three to give the Bantams a 90-85 win.

Trinity played impressive defense on the Panthers all night, only allowing Middlebury to shoot 23-62 (37.1 percent) from the field and 7-22 (31.8 percent) from deep.

St. Amour scored all of his game-high 20 points in the second half, converting all eight of his foul shots and leading the Middlebury comeback. Hunter Merryman '15 added 16 points, while Matt Daley '16 tallied 13 points and 11 rebounds for his third double-double in the last six games. Jake Brown '17 scored 11 points while assisting on seven other baskets and committing only one turnover.

After Wesleyan won on Friday and Saturday, the Panthers were mathematically eliminated, meaning the Amherst game on

SEE MEN'S BASKETBALL, PAGE 18

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SPORTS



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